

UNESCO delays Palestine request

PARIS (AP) — The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) general conference cleared its first potential controversy Tuesday by postponing the Palestine Liberation Organisation's (PLO) request for membership until 1991. The UNESCO decision was taken by voice consensus without a vote. Yacov Aviad, the Israeli representative to UNESCO, protested the resolution "in the most vigorous terms" and said it would divert the organization from more pressing business. The head of the PLO observer mission, Omar Masalha, said his group accepted the postponement "in order to avoid a confrontation or disruption that is not in UNESCO's interests." The United States, which left UNESCO in 1985, had said submitting Palestine as a member state would eliminate any chance of an American return. Had the PLO lobbied to have the membership application approved, it would have succeeded, Masalha said. A majority of UNESCO members recognize the Palestinian state proclaimed last November. In return for agreeing to the postponement, the PLO obtained assurances that UNESCO would involve Palestinians in the Israeli-occupied territories more closely in its activities.

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No candidate barred because of politics

By Nermeen Murad
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The government has refrained from applying provisions in the Election Law banning political activists from running in the Nov. 8 parliamentary elections and seven caudidacy nominations were turned down because of procedural reasons, Interior Minister Salem Masa'deh said Tuesday.

"Not a single nomination was turned down on the grounds that the candidate had affiliations with any illegal political party or group," Masa'deh told a press conference held at the ministry. "This decision followed His Majesty King Hussein's orders, wishes and directives to allow all Jordanians with no exception to practice the holy right (of elections) under the umbrella of the Constitution," he said.

The marked government abstention from applying Article 18 E of the 1986 Election Law and its amendments, to bar activists of illegal political parties and groupings from the Nov. 8 elections marked a major turn in the Kingdom's history of elections. It also partly answered questions raised by local, Arab and international analysts and commentators over the Kingdom's intentions to allow the existence of political parties, banned since 1956.

Effectively the decision meant that at least a dozen widely known political activists of parties such as Communists, Baathists, socialist and leftists who describe themselves as "progressive

nationalists," will be able to address the electorate publicly and seek a role in the Kingdom's decision-making process from the Parliament floor.

Almost all of them have clearly pledged that their activities, election platforms and goals will be adapted to the national needs of the country within the framework of the Constitution.

A known political activist, who until today was expected to be the only candidate who would be barred based on his political background, said that the Nov. 8 elections "constitute a turning point towards democracy in view of continued calls over the past 20 years."

The same candidate, a self-proclaimed "Communist," told the Jordan Times in an interview that he "respects religion," and would work on evolving and developing his ideas sufficiently to meet national needs.

Masa'deh said Tuesday that the total number of candidates running for the 80 seats in the Lower House of Parliament had reached 662 when the three-day nomination period expired Monday. But appeal courts will rule on contested nominations before a final list of candidates is issued on Oct. 25.

The seven three-down nominations included those of three tribal figures — Mashour Haditheh, Naif Khreisha and Teraf Al Qadi — who wanted to run for seats not reserved for bedouins; and three who failed to meet the relevant nationality criteria — Nimer Sarhan, Huda

Al Rabei and Faisal Faqa'awi. The seventh, who was not named by the minister, was disqualified for a past criminal conviction.

Masa'deh said that the ministry would now dedicate its efforts to monitoring the course of the election campaigns and to ensure that candidates and voters abide by the relevant laws and regulations.

Masa'deh said that 20,000 government employees and security officers would be on duty at district offices on election day to ensure that the polls were conducted in a "safe, free and honest atmosphere."

The minister urged all registered voters to pick their voter cards and "practice their right to elect their candidates to Parliament."

According to the minister, the number of voters who collected their voter cards until Monday, stood at \$54,371 out of 1,200,000 registered voters. "This is a very low percentage. We hope that it will reach at least 90 per cent of the registered voters by the end of this month," Masa'deh said.

The minister stressed that the ministry would not be able to extend the period allocated for distribution of voter cards beyond the end of October. "Because each stage has an allocated time and we cannot delay our work and accumulate it for elections day."

Television coverage on elections day, according to Masa'deh, will include results every three hours, but "we will not name the leaders because we do not want to create sensitivity."



Interior Minister Salem Masa'deh holds a press conference Tuesday to announce the outcome of a three-day nomination process for candidates in the Nov. 8 elections (Petra photo)

Regent underlines media role in communication with citizen

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Tuesday stressed the important role played by the mass media in opening channels of communication with citizens, particularly at this time when Jordan is at the threshold of a new era, which will witness the general parliamentary elections for the first time in 20 years.

Speaking at a meeting with the staff of Jordan television and radio, Prince Hassan said Jordan was passing through a stage of evaluation and that was learning

from its past experiences and presenting the perspectives of the future it wants.

He reaffirmed that Jordan had been able to overcome the difficult economic stage through the economic adjustment programmes it is applying and the credibility it enjoys in the international scene. Based on this, Prince Hassan noted, Jordan has received assistance from the sister Arab countries, Japan, the United States, Canada, the International Monetary Fund and other international aid agencies. Moreover,

Jordan has been able to reschedule its debts, the Crown Prince pointed out.

Prince Hassan reviewed the positive outcome of the visits made by His Majesty King Hussein to the United States early this year and his recent visit to Canada. The Regent also referred to his own visit to the United States last month, in addition to the visits made by other Jordanian officials. He pointed out that such visits had come up with assistance and investment loans to Jordan.

PLO leaders shun American proposals

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), spurning U.S. proposals for Israeli-Palestinian talks, has stuck to its demand for a central role in peace moves.

The Palestine Central Council (PCC), a 108-member policy-making body, concluded a meeting in Baghdad Monday, urging "firm confrontations of American policy, which is still based on the rejection of the Palestinian people's right to self-determination."

Also, Syrian-based factions attending the meeting urged the PLO to start talks with Syria and end a seven-year dispute with President Hafez Al Assad.

There was no word on the outcome of the Syrian debate. But the PLO's now-tougher stand on the U.S. proposals should help it in many rapprochement with Damascus, which rejects any direct Israeli-Palestinian talks.

The Syrian thinking was reflected in a commentary by the official daily Al-Tishrin praising the underground leaders of the uprising for rejecting what it called "suspicious peace plans presented by Israel, Egypt and the U.S."

It called on Arab states to press the U.S. administration to accept an international peace conference and allow the Palestinians restore their rights.

The paper indirectly criticised PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat and other Arab states which "are still betting on an unbiased U.S. position towards the Arab-Israeli conflict."

The uprising's 47th leaflet renewed the Palestinian people's rejection of all capitulation and suspicious initiatives starting with Shamir's plan and ending with James Baker's proposals... Tishrin said.

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's proposals for elections

in the occupied territories, and Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak's clarification points in addition to the five-point plan by U.S. Secretary of State James Baker have so far gained no PLO backing.

The plans are aimed at choosing non-PLO representatives for peace talks with Israel but the uprising leaflet said that only the PLO could appoint Palestinian delegates to the talks.

The PCC said in a final declaration after two days of meetings that the PLO alone can decide who should talk to the Israelis.

Baker's plan does not mention the PLO, and Shamir has rejected any PLO participation in the talks, which would be a preliminary step towards elections in the occupied territories.

"The PLO and the PLO alone has the right to name the Palestinian side to any talks with Israel, whether they be Palestinians inside the occupied territories or outside," the PCC said.

The declaration accused Washington of ignoring the PLO as the "sole legitimate representative" of the Palestinians. It said the American proposals were only a version of the Israeli plan.

"If we are ever to get the process off the ground, Palestinians are going to have to find a way to respond positively," U.S. State Department spokeswoman Margaret D. Tutwiler said Monday in Washington.

She said Baker would keep working with Israeli and Egyptian officials to get negotiations started.

The PCC also said Palestinian-Israeli talks proposed recently by the United States and Egypt could only be a preliminary step towards an international peace conference under United Nations auspices.

King and Queen arrive in London

LONDON (Petra) — Their Majesties King Hussein and Queen Noor arrived in London Tuesday on a several-day visit during which King Hussein will deliver a lecture at Oxford University.

King Hussein and Queen Noor arrived here after an official visit to Canada during which the King met with the governor general of Canada and held discussions with Canadian Prime Minister Brian Mulroney and senior officials on bilateral relations and the latest developments in the Middle East and current international issues.

The King also met with representatives of economic commercial and financial sectors of Canada. The ministers of energy and mineral resources and planning also held talks with their Canadian counterparts on means of strengthening bilateral cooperation. The two ministers reviewed with the Canadian officials prospects for setting up Canadian investment projects in Jordan.

The Alberta State Prime Minister

Monday hosted a farewell party in honour of King Hussein, Queen Noor and the accompanying delegation.

In a dinner speech, prime minister lauded the friendly relations between Jordan and Canada.

He stressed Canadian interest in broadening scopes of cooperation with Jordan and exploring investment opportunities in the Kingdom.

He praised Jordan's role and its achievements it made under the leadership of King Hussein and said that the stability which Jordan enjoys encourages the private sector in Alberta to seriously consider prospects for setting up Canadian investments in Jordan, particularly in the area of oil exploration.

King Hussein thanked him for the hospitality and the warm welcome accorded to him and the Jordanian delegation and voiced pride in the existing ties of cooperation between Jordan and Canada.

Sharif Zeid denounces attack on Saudi diplomat

AMMAN (J.T.) — Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker Tuesday condemned the perpetrators of a bomb blast which wounded a Saudi Arabian diplomat in Ankara.

In a telegram of sympathy to Saudi Defence Minister Prince Sultan bin Abdul Aziz, Sharif Zeid said Monday's attack showed the "baseless and cowardice" of its perpetrators.

Sharif Zeid returned to Amman late Monday evening after accompanying His Majesty King Hussein on his official visit to Italy earlier this month, and took part in the talks the King held with Italian leaders on Middle East issues and Italian-Jordanian relations.

Saudi Arabia Tuesday condemned as a "cowardly and criminal act" the carbomb blast in Ankara

in which the Saudi diplomat, Abdul Rahman Shrewi, lost both legs.

A statement by the Saudi Foreign Ministry said the attack was against Islam and violated of the simplest humanitarian principles.

The statement, carried by the Saudi Press Agency, urged the Turkish government not to spare any effort in tracking down the attackers and "inflicting the stiffest punishment on them."

Saudi King Fahd sent a special flying hospital to pick up Shrewi, 28, for treatment in the kingdom.

Surgeons have amputated both limbs at the knees. The legs were shattered by the powerful bomb that blew Shrewi out of the car as he drove to work.

Shrewi was an accountant in the office of the embassy's military attaché.

Egypt, Libya open 'new chapter' in ties

TOBRUK, Libya (Agencies) — Egypt's Hosni Mubarak and Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi, enemies for years, exchanged vows Tuesday to respect each other's laws, security and stability.

Mubarak, who began reconciliation talks with Qadhafi Monday in the Egyptian coastal resort of Mersa Matruh, crossed the border Tuesday to make the first visit to Libya by an Egyptian president in 17 years.

"The two leaders made it clear that Egypt and Libya were starting a new chapter," Egyptian Information Minister Safwat Al Sharif told reporters.

He said both leaders stressed their eagerness for each other's security and stability and the importance of respecting laws in each country.

Dressed in a white suit and black shirt, Qadhafi hugged Mubarak on his arrival at the coastal town of Tobruk 130 kilometres west of the border.

Thousands of Libyans chanted "One people, not two, from Mubarak to Bahrain" as Qadhafi

led Mubarak into a bedouin-style tent for almost three hours of talks.

Even Mubarak, in response to the "one people" theme, had to answer "Yes — one people."

But diplomats say the Egyptian leader, known for his cautious, steady style, is expected to move slowly in search of tangible results rather than allowing old dreams of a union between the two countries to be resurrected.

Libya and Syria are the only Arab countries which have not yet restored ties with Egypt, broken in 1979 after Cairo's treaty with Israel.

There has been no move yet to restore diplomatic ties but the talks mark the end of almost two decades of hostility which included in a brief border war in 1977.

Qadhafi met Mubarak in May when Egypt returned to its place at an Arab League summit.

Since then the border has been reopened, flights resumed and the two countries exchanged high-level envoys.

Intifada seen sweeping back to Arab Jerusalem

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Palestinians stoned a Jewish home, set a truck ablaze and unknown assailants overnight stabbed a suspected collaborator in Jerusalem as an Israeli official said Tuesday the Palestinian uprising had taken a new direction in the occupied Holy City.

Clashes resumed in Jerusalem for the first time in several months Monday. Police fired tear-gas and rubber bullets to disperse stone-throwers in Arab Jerusalem and sent in reinforcements to crack down on uprising activists.

On Tuesday, police closed Sawkhra school in Arab Jerusalem for a week and arrested six Arab pupils after they stoned the apartment of a Jewish family earlier that day, police said.

Windows were broken but no one was hurt. A second school, Rashidiya, was shut indefinitely Monday after police clashed with 100 pupils.

On Arab Jerusalem's Mount of Olives, unknown assailants overnight stabbed and beat unconscious a Palestinian on suspicion he helped Israeli authorities, police and Palestinians said.

Mokashed hospital officials said the man, 69-year-old Daoud Abu Seltan, was in serious but stable condition after surgery.

The truck was set ablaze in the

mixed Jewish-Arab neighbourhood of Abu Tor, the scene of several tyre-burnings and stoning incidents in recent days.

Amir Cheshin, the Israeli adviser on Arab affairs, called the recent violence, particularly car arson in west Jerusalem and attacks by masked protesters in Arab Jerusalem, severe but not an escalation.

"I don't see this as an escalation. I see it as a change in direction of the intifada in Jerusalem," he told Israel radio.

Israeli Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin Sunday defended Israel's use of tax raids and other hardline measures to crush a tax boycott in the West Bank town of Beit Sahour.

"Everyone, everywhere, pays taxes," Rabin said after touring Beit Sahour, where soldiers and tax agents have carried out tax raids for the past three weeks.

The army declared the town near Bethlehem a "closed military zone," and reporters were not allowed to accompany Rabin on his tour. The government also has cut telephone lines to Beit Sahour.

The town of about 10,000 is known for its widespread compliance with a tax boycott called by the underground leadership of the uprising. Israeli officials estimated that

as much as \$1 million worth of furniture, machinery and goods have been confiscated in Beit Sahour and say it will be auctioned or sold in lots to recover tax revenues.

In Bethlehem, meanwhile, an Israeli soldier was lightly injured by a rock, the army said. It said troops opened fire, wounded one of the Palestinian stone-throwers and captured another.

Also Tuesday, an Israeli human rights group reported that 20 Palestinians had been killed by soldiers in the first two weeks of October, one of the bloodiest periods in the Palestinian uprising.

Parliament member Yossi Sarid of the Citizens Rights Movement has told the parliament that he believes the high toll in October is related to the change in firing rules and has called for a review.

The army last month changed firing orders to allow soldiers to shoot live ammunition at masked Palestinians, even if they are not armed.

The earlier order allowed firing at masked protesters only if they carried knives or other weapons. Troops are supposed to shout warnings and shoot in the air before firing at the legs of masked activists who are fleeing.

minister named and political reforms in favour of the majority Muslims approved by parliament.

The deputies said a compromise under debate provided for the Syrian withdrawal to the Bekaa after electing a head of state, choosing a prime minister and approving part instead of all the political reforms.

Christian Deputy Gibran Taouk told reporters after the meeting that agreement was reached to prepare a separate clause providing for assurances of an eventual Syrian withdrawal.

He said the clause would not be part of the main charter, which the Arab mediators have advised the Christians against changing because it had international support.

"There is nothing final and the Christian deputies still have a lot of discussions among themselves and with officials in Beirut," one deputy said.



Rajiv Gandhi

Gandhi sets early elections

NEW DELHI (Agencies) — Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi Tuesday called national parliamentary elections earlier than had been expected, Nov. 22 and 24.

"It was a stroke out of the blue and the immediate reaction was panic," said a broker on the Bombay stock exchange where share prices tumbled as rumours spread that the government had decided to go to the polls for the 545-seat Lok Sabha (lower house).

The announcement of the dates by the Indian Election Commission came a few hours after Gandhi called a full cabinet meeting to ratify his decision.

Voting will take place in most seats Nov. 22 but in a few remote areas two days later, the commission said.

Gandhi himself will stand for election in his constituency of Amethi, in Uttar Pradesh.

Technically, Gandhi could have delayed the elections until the first week of January and he was attempted in recent days to quash rumours that he would go to the country earlier.

Gandhi's Congress Party won 415 seats in the last elections, conducted in December 1984 two months after his mother, Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, was assassinated by two of her Sikh bodyguards.

Gandhi's decision came on the heels of fresh charges of high-level corruption and his failure to push two constitutional amendments through parliament last week.

"By deciding to face the people, the government has been forced to take the only option available to it," said Gandhi's chief political rival, Vishwanath Pratap Singh.

Singh is the leader of the Janata Dal, one of five groups comprising the opposition National Front.

Soviets abstain from U.N. vote on Israel

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — The Soviet Union on Tuesday for the first time in seven years abstained from a vote to reject Israel's U.N. credentials.

Soviet Ambassador Alexander M. Belonogov said later Tuesday that the abstention reflects his government's commitment to the principle of universality of the United Nations and broad participation.

But he emphasised that it "does not reflect in any way that we have changed our assessment of Israel's foreign policy in which, unfortunately, we have seen no change."

The largely ceremonial move came when the General Assembly took up the report of the credentials committee, which each year recommends seating of

all current members of the 159-nation world body, including Israel.

Libya raised a point of order, saying Israel's credentials should not be accepted, but Denmark submitted a resolution saying there should be no discussion of the Arab argument.

The vote in favour of the Danish resolution was 95-37, with 15 abstentions. Last year's vote was 95-41, with seven abstentions.

The report of the credentials committee to accept all members was accepted Tuesday without objection after the Danish resolution passed.

The Soviet Union has traditionally voted against Israel. This year it abstained, along with the Ukraine and Byelorussia. Turkey, which abstained last year,

voted in favour of Israel.

General Assembly resolutions are not binding and a vote of the 15-nation Security Council is required to expel a nation or admit a new member. But the assembly, by refusing to accept credentials, can bar a nation from participating in the work of the assembly, as in the case of South Africa.

Israeli diplomats had said the Soviet vote would be a litmus test of Moscow's intentions in improving relations with Israel and playing a significant role in the Middle East peace process.

Israeli Ambassador Johanan Bein, the acting permanent representative, said the Soviet abstention "is a move in the right direction, yes, definitely positive."

Arab states have sought since

1982 to expel Israel, pointing out that it is an international outlaw and defies U.N. resolutions calling on the government to withdraw from occupied Arab lands.

The Arab states this year also denounced Israel for its harsh handling of the uprising.

Clovis Maksoud, ambassador of the Arab League, called the Soviet abstention "regrettable," but a "tactical move that does not alter the Soviet Union's basic commitment to the fundamental rights of the Palestinian people and justice in the Middle East."

In view of the changed Soviet vote, he said he did not know whether Arab states would again challenge Israel's credentials and said that in the future Arab states would have to be "more self-reliant."

Khartoum: Rebels stage unprovoked attacks

KHARTOUM (R) — A member of Sudan's ruling military junta accused the rebel Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) Tuesday of staging unprovoked attacks in the southern region of Equatoria.

Brigadier Dominic Kassiano told Reuters the SPLA killed 12 people when it ambushed a convoy between the towns of Juba and Yei in southern Sudan last month.

He said the SPLA had abducted at gunpoint some 300 people including children and priests in Iba and Remeze in western Equatoria.

A series of ceasefires have been announced by the rebels and the government. The latest truce was declared by Sudan's new military leader General Omar Hassan Al Bashir and expires on Nov. 4.

The SPLA, a predominantly southern movement, is fighting to end what it sees as domination of the Christian and animist south

by the Arab Muslim north. Meanwhile the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) says it has visited 105 prisoners of war held by Sudanese rebels and eight held by the government.

The SPLA has said that the government always killed rebels it captured and warned that it would do the same with its government prisoners.

The ICRC, in a report obtained by Reuters Monday and dated Sept. 13, said its delegates provided the prisoners with medical help. It did not say where they were held.

In a separate development, a top official in Sudan's deposed government of Prime Minister Sadeq Al Mahdi would go on trial

again to give him a chance to appeal his 40 year prison term, a Khartoum daily said Tuesday.

Al Ingaz Al Watani said Idris Al Banna, a member of the five-man Supreme Council which was disbanded by the new military junta last June, is to have his case referred back to the court which tried him.

Banna, jailed on charges of corruption, had refused to defend himself at his first trial in protest at the court's refusal to grant him bail. He also refused to appeal against his sentence.

The newspaper quoted Ali Mohammad Yassin, the under secretary in the Attorney General's chamber, as saying the court which sentenced Banna had itself raised his case to the court to appeal to give him another chance.

It said the prosecution counsel has sent a memo to the court asking it to put Banna on trial again.

Somalia admits some army mutinies; Libya sends troops to help Barre

MOGADISHU (R) — President Mohammad Siad Barre admitted for the first time some army troops had mutinied, and rebels accused Libya of sending troops and heavy weapons to back Somalia against them.

Siad Barre told farmers meeting in the capital Mogadishu Monday night that some government troops had "turned the barrel of the gun against those who trained and equipped them."

Without giving details, he condemned rebellious soldiers who he said were fighting loyalists in southern and northern Somalia and backing rebels of the Somali National Movement (SNM).

The SNM, demanding political and economic reforms in the im-

poor East African nation, has been fighting since 1981 to topple Siad Barre, who seized power in a 1969 coup and turned the country into a one-party state.

"We have been pressured to liberalise the economy. We accepted. They urged us to reintroduce a multi-party system. We accepted that idea. What else do they want from us?" he angrily asked.

The SNM has reported frequent mutinies among government troops especially in the north, where the rebels last year fought heavy battles which nearly destroyed Hargeisa, the region's largest town.

The SNM said Tuesday Libya had sent 700 troops, tanks, armoured cars and thousands of tonnes of ammunition to Somalia to help the government fight them.

"The Libyan troops... comprise pilots, technicians, tank and artillery crews and other specialised units," said an SNM statement telegraphed to Reuters in Nairobi from London.

Israeli Radio's Arabic service, also reported the alleged delivery of Libyan arms, said the weapons had been rushed to government troops in northern Somalia.

The SNM statement said Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi, who in the past has not openly backed the Somali government, was expected to attend celebrations in Mogadishu Saturday marking the 20th anniversary of Siad Barre's coming to power.

Meanwhile 11 people detained for their role in Somalia have died of suffocation in a sweltering prison cell, the official Somali News Agency reported.

It said 11 of 26 prisoners crammed in a cell in Mogadishu were found dead from excessive heat and lack of oxygen Monday.

The agency said the prisoners had been arrested for stealing goods from the docks. Three policemen guarding them were arrested.

Soviet Azerbaijani defects in Cairo

CAIRO (AP) — A Soviet national from Azerbaijan who dropped out of a tour group, went to the U.S. embassy and sought to defect said Monday he "would rather die here" than return.

The man earlier had sought asylum from the Turkish embassy but was turned down on ground he did not qualify as a legitimate refugee.

Daoud Aiyev, 45, an artist and a member of Azerbaijan's Mus-

lim Shi'ite majority, said he left the tour group last week when it arrived in Cairo from southern Egypt.

Leaving the group of 30 tourists from Baku, Azerbaijan, "was very difficult," Aiyev said. "All eyes were on everyone. If I was caught, I would have been sent back and killed."

The Soviet embassy was closed for the day and its officials unavailable for comment.

Ozal to stand for president

ANKARA (R) — Prime Minister Turgut Ozal announced Tuesday he would stand as a presidential candidate in forthcoming elections in parliament.

Ozal is widely expected to be elected to the seven-year post by parliament in a polling process that starts Friday, because his party has 289 seats in the 450-seat chamber.

Ozal told a meeting of deputies of his Motherland Party in parliament: "I have finally decided to be a candidate for president."

Ozal's announcement came two days before an official deadline for nominations expires Thursday. No other candidates have entered the race so far.

The opposition Social Democrat Socialist Party (SDP) and

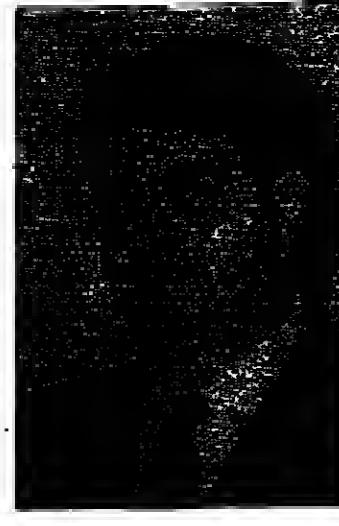
centre-rightist True Path Party (TPP) have threatened to boycott the election if Ozal stands.

They said recent public opinion polls showed Ozal had lost the country's confidence because of his failure to tackle inflation.

There was no immediate indication of who Ozal would name as his successor to lead the party, which fared disastrously in nationwide local elections last March, polling only 22 per cent of the vote.

Parliament will begin the first of up to four rounds of voting for president Friday.

A two-thirds majority of 300 votes is needed in the first two ballots but a simple majority of 226 in the subsequent rounds will elect the new president.



Turgut Ozal

Turkish night club blast kills 6

ANKARA (R) — Six people were killed and 11 were injured in an explosion and fire at a night club in central Ankara Tuesday, the semi-official Anatolian News Agency said.

All the victims were believed to be employees sleeping in the club in the early hours of the morning after customers had left.

Ankara Fire Department officials said the six died of asphyxiation after dense smoke filled the premises following a fire caused by an explosion of a can of petrol.

Police sources said three people were being held on suspicion of involvement in the club fire but did not disclose their names.

The incident occurred at around 5.00 a.m. (0300 GMT) after customers had left and the staff were eating, they said.

The club was one of about 40 middle class entertainment places in Ankara and had room for about 50 customers.

Saudi Arabia condemns bomb attack

In another development, Saudi Arabia condemned a car bomb attack on one of its diplomats in Turkey and called for the swift arrest and punishment of whoever was responsible.

"While strongly condemning this criminal and cowardly act... we are sure Turkey will spare no effort to arrest the criminals and inflict strict punishment on them," the Saudi Press Agency (SPA) quoted a Foreign Ministry official as saying.

SPA said 28-year-old Abdurrahman Shurei, whose legs were shattered Monday when a bomb went off in his car in Ankara, had been flown to Saudi Arabia for medical treatment.

An anonymous telephone caller claiming to speak for Islamic Jihad Monday told a news agency in Cyprus that the pro-Iranian Lebanese group had staged the attack.

The caller, whose claim could not be verified, said the attack was "revenge (for) the execution of our brothers in Saudi Arabia."

Saudi Arabia last month executed 16 Kuwaitis, including 10 of Iranian origin, found guilty of involvement in bomb attacks in Mecca in July in which one Pakistani pilgrim was killed and 16 wounded.

In October last year another diplomat at the Saudi embassy in Ankara was killed at his home by an unidentified gunman.

The telephone caller also said Islamic Jihad would start executing Swiss hostages it was holding unless Switzerland released a member of the group, a convicted hijacker, within three days.

Two Swiss Red Cross workers are missing, believed kidnapped in Lebanon but no group has claimed responsibility for their disappearance.

Islamic Jihad is also believed to hold two Americans hostage in Lebanon.

Israel to reprimand officers over Syrian pilot's defection

TEL AVIV (AP) — A military investigation team concluded that a "family report and mistaken decision-making process" in Israel's air force led to a failure in intercepting a Syrian MiG-23 warplane flown by a defector into northern Israel, the army said Monday.

The investigators recommended that an officer who was in charge of Israel's air defences at the time of the defection be reprimanded for his actions fol-

lowing a mistaken decision.

They also recommended that an air traffic controller who was in charge during the Oct. 11 incident be "notified of the faulty report that contributed to a mistaken decision," the military command said in a statement.

The air force was also expected to update its standing orders and procedures related to air infiltrations following the release of the report, military officials said.

An army official said the controller had the rank of lieutenant colonel while the officer in charge of air defences was a colonel.

"A lot of information was flowing in the system, and some of the information was unclear. After all, the plane has been detected as a low-flying alien object moving at a high speed," the official told the Associated Press.

He said the colonel was reprimanded because "we expect correct decisions to be taken even when the information is unclear."

Major rebel offensive threatens Ethiopian government

ADDIS ABABA (R) — Northern rebels have launched a major offensive, according to reports reaching the Ethiopian capital, and the guerrilla forces have inflicted defeats on government troops.

According to diplomats in Addis Ababa, the rebels have pushed government forces back and reached nearly to Dese, 250 kilometres from the capital.

The reports could not be confirmed. But a rebel advance to Dese would raise a threat of cutting the road between Addis Ababa and the Red Sea port of Assab, site of Ethiopia's only oil refinery and one of two key points of entry for tonnes of emergency relief food.

One African diplomat said President Mengistu Haile Mariam's forces would have to act to halt the rebel advance before it becomes serious trouble for the government.

The diplomats interviewed spoke on condition they not be identified.

The push southward is by a group calling itself the Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Democratic Movement, a combined

force of the Tigre People's Liberation Front and the Ethiopian People's Democratic Movement.

The Liberation Front, which took up arms in 1974, is pressing for increased autonomy for the province of Tigre and the overthrow of Mengistu's Marxist government. The front has an estimated 20,000 troops.

The Democratic Movement, a smaller group, split four years ago from the radical Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Party formed after the 1974 ouster of the late Emperor Haile Selassie.

The Ethiopian army went through a leadership crisis following May 15 coup attempt, when troops loyal to Mengistu killed at least 14 generals and the government jailed 100 senior officers.

Officers appointed to replace those killed or imprisoned have little field experience and apparently have failed to rally the support of the troops, one African envoy said.

In a speech after the coup, Mengistu said the rebellious generals had lacked patriotism. He blamed them for the government's repeated recent failures in clashes with the rebels.

He was referring to rebel victories that began with a joint offensive in May 1988 by the Liberation Front and the so-called Eritrean People's Liberation Front when the rebels captured most of Tigre and much of Eritrea, Ethiopia's northernmost province.

The Eritreans have been fighting since 1962, but in September began peace talks with the government. The second round of talks is scheduled for Nov. 18 in Kenya's capital, Nairobi.

The government recaptured most of its losses in Tigre, but the lines in Eritrea remained static. Another Liberation Front offensive from February to March pushed government forces out of nearly all of Tigre, setting the stage for the recent offensive.

The reports said a string of rebel victories pushed 20,000 government troops and thousands of civil servants from the Tigrean provincial capital of Mekele south to Maychew, near Tigre's southern border and out of the province and into neighbouring Wollo last month.

Diplomats said the army suffered a major defeat in Maychew,

where they said the rebels destroyed at least 15 Soviet-made tanks and captured more than 20. The rebels also seized an unknown number of anti-aircraft guns, multiple rocket launchers, and ammunition, they said.

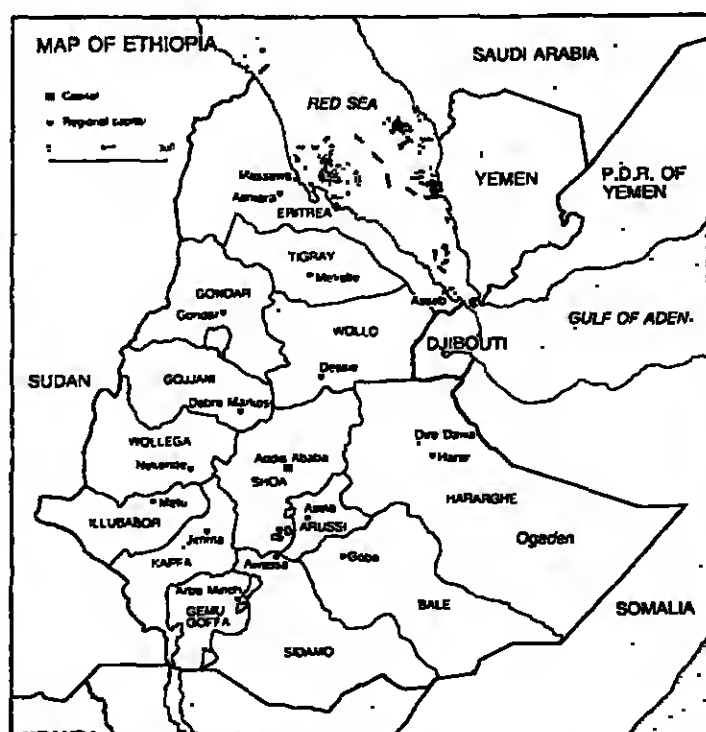
"Two divisions were wiped out," said one Western diplomat. The Liberation Front, in a clandestine broadcast Sept. 20, said the rebels killed or wounded 17,000 government troops and captured 10,300. It was impossible to verify the claim.

The Ethiopian government has an estimated 313,000 troops but the morale of the soldiers is questionable.

In addition to low troop morale, Mengistu also faces the problem of financing the war, which he said consumed half of the impoverished nation's budget this year.

The World Bank calculates Ethiopia's per capita income at \$120 a year and considers the Horn of Africa nation of 49 million people the world's poorest.

Diplomats say the Soviet Union, Ethiopia's major arms supplier, is pressing Mengistu to seek a political solution to the fighting.



Addis Ababa residents say they are sceptical a negotiated end to the war is possible in Tigre and Wollo and believe the rebels will not stop until the current government is overthrown.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION	
Tel: 773111-19	
PROGRAMME ONE	
15:30	Koran
15:40	Programme review
15:45	Children's programmes
17:00	Alph
17:30	Educational programme
18:00	News summary in Arabic
18:05	Cairo News Message
18:25	Local programme
19:20	Programme review
19:40	News in Arabic
20:30	Arabic series
21:40	Local programme
22:25	Wrestling
23:10	Varieties programme
PROGRAMME TWO	
17:45 Le Monde Magique de Chantal Goya	
18:00	Documentary
18:30	L'Apprenti
19:00	News in French
19:15	Douce France
19:30	News in Hebrew
20:30	News in Arabic
21:10	All the Rivers Run
22:00	News in English
22:20	Tanamera
PRAYER TIMES	
04:15	Fajr
05:37	Dhuhr (Sunrise) Duffa
11:51	Dhuhr
14:34	'Asr

CHURCHES	
St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swatish, Tel. 810740	
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 63785	
St. Joseph Church Tel. 62490	
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 62541	
De la Salle Church Tel. 661797	
Terrence Church Tel. 622366	
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 62541	
Anglican Church Tel. 625383, Tel. 628543	
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771351	
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 683334	
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751	
Armenian International Church Tel. 683334	
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 611295	
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 61817, 654932	
WEATHER	
Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.	
The Kingdom will be under the effect of a depression centred north of Cyprus accompanied by a cold front from northeast Europe. Hence, clouds	

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR	
<p>increase and temperatures drop gradually and rain is expected in the northern and central regions. In Amman, it will be partly cloudy with northerly moderate wind and very sea.</p> <p>Min./max. temp.</p> <p>Amman 10/18</p> <p>Aqaba 16/27</p> <p>Deserts 09/22</p> <p>Jordan Valley 15/24</p> <p>Yesterday's high temperature: Amman 25, Aqaba 32. Humidity readings: Amman 43 per cent, Aqaba 26 per cent.</p>	
USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS	
NIGHT DUTY	
AMMAN:	
Dr. Hussein Haddad	731267
Dr. Wael Dammak	748000
Dr. Adnan Al-Dal	62660
Dr. Ahmed Al-Dag	676473
Ferdous pharmacy	778336
Al Asma pharmacy	637055
Nasiroun pharmacy	626762
Al Salem pharmacy	636720
Yousuf pharmacy	644945
Shamsoun pharmacy	637680
JERUSALEM:	
Dr. Mohammad Al-Tal	(-) 982358
Al Shamsa pharmacy	(-) 982358
ZARQA:	
Dr. Maysoon Faysa	(-) 983417
Khalil pharmacy	983417
EMERGENCIES	
Civil Defence Department	661111
Civil Defence Immediate	661111
Rescue	603441
Civil Defence Emergency	199
Rescue Police	192, 621111, 677777
Fire Brigade	812228
Blood Bank	771221
Highway Police	843402
Traffic Police	894990
Public Security Department	603321
Police Complaints	603380
Price Complaints	661176
Water and Sewerage	897467
Complaints	897467
Amman Municipality	787111
Telephone Information	(directory assistance) 121
Overseas Calls	010230
Central Amman Telephone	623101
Abdullah Telephone Repulse	611101
Jordan Television	773111
Radio Jordan	774111

FOR THE TRAVELLER	
QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT	
This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (06)53200-5, where it should always be verified.	
ARRIVALS	
Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)	
09:10	Jeddah (RJ)
09:45	Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
10:00	Dhahran, Kuwait (RJ)
10:15	Larnaca, Cyprus (RJ)
10:30	Cairo, Aqaba (RJ)
11:00	Riyadh (RJ)
11:40	London (RJ)
12:40	Aqaba, Cairo (RJ)
13:00	Beirut (RJ)
13:40	Kuwait, Dhahran (RJ)
15:45	Bahrain, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
20:10	New Delhi (RJ)
20:20	Cairo (RJ)
21:35	Calcutta, Bangkok (RJ)
Other Flights (Terminal 2)	
04:20	Dubai (AZ)
12:15	Sana'a, Jeddah (TV)
12:30	Cairo (MS)
14:00	Bangkok (LH)
15:10	Aqaba, Istanbul (TK)
17:25	Jeddah (SV)
19:25	Frankfurt (LH)
20:20	Tripoli (TX)
21:00	Baghdad (IA)
21:20	Paris, Damascus (AF)
DEPARTURES	
Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)	
11:15	Amsterdam, New York (AJ)
11:20	Tunis, Casablanca (AJ)
11:40	Riyadh (RJ)
11:40	London (RJ)
12:40	Aqaba, Cairo (RJ)
13:00	Beirut (RJ)
13:40	Kuwait, Dhahran (RJ)
15:45	Bahrain, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
20:10	New Delhi (RJ)
20:20	Cairo (RJ)
21:35	Calcutta, Bangkok (RJ)
Other Flights (Terminal 2)	
06:25	Rome (AZ)
06:30	London (AZ)
06:45	Beirut (MS)
08:25	Larnaca, Zurich (BA)
10:00	Cairo (MS)
12:40	Jeddah, Sana'a (TV)
14:00	Baghdad (IA)
14:25	Kuwait (KU)
Upper/lower prices in US\$ per kg.	
Apple (golden)	420/380
Apple (red)	350/300
Banana	450/400
Banana (Mekinsam)	400/350
Beans	540/460
Cabbage	370/320
Carrot	250/200
Onion	270/220
Corn	250/200
Cucumber (large)	200/150
Cucumber (small)	380/320
Dates	420/400
Eggplant	240/200
Garlic	900/800
Spinach	230/200
Grapes	400/350
Green beans	400/350
Guava	450/400
Lemon	200/180
Melons	160/120
Mint (large)	180/150
Mint (small)	310/250
Onion (dry)	200/150
Onion (wet)	220/180
Pepper (green)	220/180
Pepper (red)	350/300
Potato	300/250
Spinach	300/250
Sweet Melon	350/300
Tomatoes	160/120
Water Melon	200/170

ELECTIONS '89

By Nermeen Murad

WINDING roads with sprawling election banners, dusty buildings, veiled women with children, wide streets dotted with small houses, and finally a large ground. The crowd seemed insignificant; it is enough and more of a wide background for a man, a poet with political ideas.

The little children run around in circles. "We can't have a part of the country eating sweets while the rest are tasting bitterness; we want democracy," the man told the silent crowd. The crowds were divided into two; a side for women and children and another for men. There were no soft drinks distributed to the voters, no tea or coffee, no kumach, nothing but sentences full of ideas, dreams and aspirations.

This candidate is not campaigning in the "prestigious" Third District of Amman, nor is he campaigning in an illiterate area. He is campaigning in Jabal Al Naser (Second District), one of the "poorer" areas of Amman, where voters do not want favours and sweet words, they want plans.

In the Third District, a candidate, asked about the "mechanisms" of his plans, shakes his head and immediately answers: "No one can tell you what he can do. When we get to Parliament we will form... we will..."

But in Jabal Al Naser, the candidate did not have to be asked. "We definitely have to solve our economic problem, and we will definitely have to face some hard times. We will need to tighten our belts and curb our spending but we have to do it with care."

We cannot curb our spending by lifting subsidies of basic foods. We cannot cut the spending of the Ministry of Education, Ministry of Health or Ministry of Transport, for these touch the majority of the needy people."

This "people's candidate" stood behind a microphone and said his piece to the pleasure of the crowd as well those thronging the balconies around him. He did not take questions, for he never held a public office that he had to be questioned about. He is not rich for people to ask him "where did you get this from? And most of all he knew their problems so he addressed them before they asked."

As we were leaving at the end of the campaign meeting, a little boy of six was shaking his hand at his friend and then said: "This is my friend."

★ ★ ★

NATIONAL NEWS IN BRIEF

QASEM DELIVERS KING'S MESSAGE TO MOROCCO: King Hassan II of Morocco Tuesday received a message from His Majesty King Hussein, dealing with bilateral relations and the latest developments in the region. The message was delivered to King Hassan by Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Marwan Al Qasbi, who arrived in Rabat Monday. (Petra)

PRINCE MOHAMMAD VISITS PRIME MINISTRY: His Royal Highness Prince Mohammad, the Personal Representative of His Majesty King Hussein, Tuesday called at the Prime Ministry where he met with Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker. (Petra)

COOPERATION PROGRAMME WITH CHILE: The Cabinet Tuesday endorsed the executive programme of cultural and scientific cooperation with Chile for the years 1989-1991. The programme aims to enhance and broaden the scope of cultural and scientific cooperation between Jordan and Chile in implementation of an agreement concluded in 1982. The Cabinet also named Minister of Industry and Trade Ziad Imbah, as head of the Jordanian delegation to the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) ministers of industries and trade meetings, which will be held in Baghdad at the end of October. (Petra)

MAJALI OPENS PHOTO EXHIBITION: Minister of Culture and Information Nasouh Al Majali Tuesday inaugurated a five-day photo exhibition, organised by the Italian embassy in cooperation with the Ministry of Culture. On display at the exhibition, held at the Royal Cultural Centre, are photographs of the works by the most renowned Italian artists of the 16th century renaissance period. Attending the inauguration ceremony were the Ministry of Culture's Secretary General, the Italian ambassador to Jordan and a number of diplomats. (Petra)

KHAMMASH MEETS IRAQI COUNTERPART: Minister of Transport Hikmat Khammash met in Baghdad Tuesday with his Iraqi counterpart Mohammad Hamzeh to discuss different aspects of cooperation between the two countries in transport and communications. Khammash and Hamzeh are both taking part in the fifth Arab Transport Ministers Council meeting in the Iraqi capital and in the general assembly meeting of the Arab Maritime Bridge Company which is owned jointly by Iraq, Jordan and Egypt and operates the Aqaba-Nweibeh land-sea route. (Petra)

CONFERENCE ON CHEST DISEASES: The University of Jordan and the Health Ministry are jointly organising the second Arab conference on chest diseases which will open here on Oct. 25. Delegates from most Arab countries are expected to take part in the three-day meetings which will review working papers and scientific research dealing with the treatment and surgery of the chest. The Health Ministry plans to submit a working paper dealing with tuberculosis in the Kingdom. (Petra)

ARAB CULTURAL MINISTERS MEETING: Jordan took part in an Arab cultural ministers meeting which was held in Rabat recently under the patronage of King Hassan II of Morocco and with the participation of delegates from 19 Arab states and original and international organisations. Dr. Hani Al Amad, secretary general of the Ministry of Culture who attended the meeting, said that the participants discussed a number of Arab cultural matters designed to bolster cooperation among their countries. (Petra)

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

★ An art exhibition by Foad Mimi and 'Amman Khammash' at Abdul Hamid Shoman Foundation's Scientific and Cultural Centre.

★ An Islamic book exhibition displaying a collection of books dealing with economic and literary matters related to Islam in addition to children's books, at the Yarmouk University.

★ A photographic exhibition depicting life as well as historical and archaeological places in Oman at the Yarmouk University.

★ An Italian photo exhibition at the Royal Cultural Centre.

FILM

★ A French film entitled "Eles, Eles" at the Royal Cultural Centre — 8:00 p.m.

BAZAAR

★ A bazaar which includes religious and children's books in addition to embroidered and knitwear products, at Al Nuzha Community Centre.

LECTURE

★ A lecture, in French, on the urban dimensions of Petra city by Jean-Marie Dentzer at the French Cultural Centre — 6:00 p.m.

★ A lecture, organised by Amideast, on "Jordan's regulations regarding higher education in the USA" at the American Centre — 3:00 p.m.

Queen receives honorary doctorate degree

Queen Noor lauds Canada's efforts for Mideast peace

CALGARY (J.T.) — Her Majesty Queen Noor has voiced deep appreciation of Canada's endeavours to bring peace to the Middle East and cited the efforts of notable Canadian statesmen who led the efforts in this direction since 1948.

"Who among us can forget the efforts of Lester Pearson to bring about United Nations action on Palestine in 1948, and again in 1956 over the Suez crisis? And who can fail to appreciate the honourable service of General Burns who commanded the U.N. Emergency Force in Gaza and Sinai during a difficult and critical period," said the Queen in an address at Calgary University upon receiving an honorary doctorate degree in law.

"We in Jordan share the belief that respect for international law and the principles embodied in the United Nations Charter is the best guarantee for peace and stability among nations," the Queen said.

"We have always advocated the resolution of regional conflicts, particularly the Arab-Israeli conflict on the basis of international law, under the auspices of the United Nations," the Queen added.

She said that this year "Jordan became one of the first Arab countries to participate in a U.N. peacekeeping effort, when Jordanian troops are in-



HM Queen Noor

visited to take part in the current mission in Namibia."

Thanking the university for honouring her with the degree, the Queen said: "I am proud and very pleased to accept the degree which you confer upon me today. With this gesture, not only do you honour me personally, you also honour my country and people of Jordan."

Queen Noor said that during the visit to Canada in the past week she enjoyed new opportunities to learn more about the country and its people, and to exchange ideas on practical means of reinforcing and expanding cooperative exchanges among individuals and institutions in Jordan and Canada.

The Queen said: "Your country has already distinguished itself in the humanita-

rian focus of its foreign policy and in the prominent role it played in the establishment of the United Nations, created for the promotion and preservation of world peace and security, and for the advancement of international law."

"Since then you have contributed actively and effectively to the success of its activities and to furthering world peace. Canada alone has the distinction of having contributed to every major United Nations peacekeeping mission," the Queen said.

His Majesty King Hussein and the Jordanian delegation were present at the presentation ceremony, along with senior officials from the province of Alberta, deans, professors and students of the University of Calgary.

King Hussein addressed a luncheon hosted on the occasion, expressing his appreciation for the degree which, he said, served as an honour to Jordan and its people.

King Hussein paid tribute to the Queen for her continued efforts in social and cultural life as well as in women's affairs in Jordan.

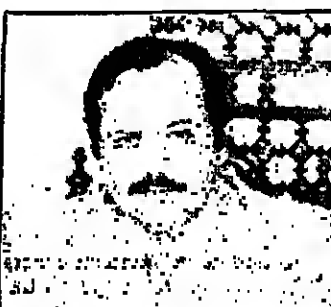
A citation presented to the Queen at the ceremony lauded her continued efforts through the Noor Al Hussein Foundation in carrying out long-term projects in social and cultural fields and in preserving the country's cultural, artistic and folkloric wealth.

Majali, Soviet republic minister discuss cultural cooperation

AMMAN (Petra) — Cultural cooperation between Jordan and the Soviet Autonomous Republic of Kabardino Balkar came under discussion here Tuesday by officials from both sides.

Minister of Culture and Information Nasouh Al Majali welcomed a visit to Jordan by the republic's Housing Minister Vladimir Mustafa and his accompanying delegation; and said that Jordan will be ready to exchange cultural cooperation with the Soviet republic.

Such cooperation will highlight Jordan's cultural heritage in Kabardino Balkar and will allow Circassian, Daghestani and



Nasouh Al Majali

Chechen minorities in Jordan to learn more about their forefathers' home country in Soviet Central Asia, the minister noted. Majali lauded the existing ties

of friendship between the Soviet Union and Jordan and said that Jordan's information policies are based on openness and maintaining open channels of cooperation and free contacts with all countries.

Vladimir Mustafa also lauded existing ties between the Soviet Union and Jordan, and said that his autonomous republic was looking forward to further cooperation with Jordan in information.

The meeting was held at the Jordan Radio and Television Corporation and attended by the corporation's senior officials and engineers.



Jordanian-Soviet Friendship Society President Bahjat Talhoumi Tuesday receives Latvia's deputy prime minister at the Queen Alia International Airport in Amman (Petra photo)

Latvia's deputy premier arrives

AMMAN (Petra) — Soviet friendship delegation, headed by the Deputy Prime Minister of the Soviet Republic of Latvia Alfred Chibanz arrived in Amman Tuesday, at the beginning of a seven-day visit to Jordan, to take part in the Soviet-Jordanian Friendship Week which starts here Wednesday.

During the week-long event, art exhibitions will be held in Amman, Aqaba and Irbid and

lectures will be delivered on the Soviet-Jordanian ties.

In an arrival statement, Chibanz said that his visit to Jordan is aimed at bolstering bilateral relations in the economic, commercial, touristic and cultural fields.

He praised the existing bilateral relations, saying that they are based on mutual respect, equality as well as the unified stands towards the Arab-Israeli conflict and world peace.

He paid tribute to His Majesty King Hussein and said that he enjoys a unique status in the international arena.

The 24 member delegation were received upon arrival by Bahjat Talhoumi, president of the Jordanian-Soviet Friendship Society and the society members, in addition to the Soviet ambassador to Jordan and director of the Soviet Cultural Centre.

Ministry begins accepting applications for Tawjihi exams

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Ministry of Education announced Monday that it has started accepting applications from students wishing to sit for the general certification of secondary school, Tawjihi, examination which is due to take place in Jordan in January 1990.

A ministry announcement said that registration of the students, expected to reach nearly 59,000, will continue until October 28. Students are required to pay a fee of JD 20 and submit photographs, and identity papers as well as other documents in the procedure.

The second examination session for Tawjihi students is normally held in June each year while the final results are known by the end of July.

Last year, 58,618 male and female students took the two-session examination in the scientific, literary, hotel management, nursing, commercial and industrial streams.

Earlier this year, the ministry introduced a new system by which students who fail one or more subjects in their Tawjihi examinations can take a make-up examination in the following year to pass in particular subjects.

The Minister of Education said

that students will have a new chance to get better results for their possible entry into community colleges and universities.

He said the new system will be put into force immediately.

Schools, which reopened on Aug. 22 for the current scholastic year, received more than one million students at the primary, preparatory and secondary stages.

According to ministry sources some 30,000 new students joined school for the first time when they were admitted to the first primary class.



Minister of Health and Social Development Tuesday attends the opening of a seminar on zoonotic and parasitic diseases in Amman (Petra photo)

Seminar on zoonotic and parasitic diseases begins

Regent calls for review of health sector plans

By Suhair Obeidat
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The third pan-Arab seminar on zoonotic and parasitic diseases began here Tuesday under the patronage of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, who was represented by Minister of Health and Social Development Dr. Zuhair Malhas.

The Crown Prince, in a speech delivered by Malhas on his behalf, called for a review of the country's health sector plans, with special emphasis on control and prevention.

"Despite the fact that infant mortality rate — the simplest health indicator — fell drastically, and that the percentage of vaccinated children has increased in the past few years, we still need to review our plans as regards to the health sector, especially in prevention and control," the Crown Prince said.

He added that these seminars are the only way to progress and prosperity, in that they strengthen scientific cooperation within other countries. "It is also expected to enhance Jordan's endogenous capacity in this field and the work done by Jordanian

scientists in the course of prevention and control," he said.

The Higher Council for Science and Technology (HCST), the organiser of the seminar, was represented by its secretary-general, Dr. Abdullah Touqan, who addressed the opening session.

Touqan said that the final objective of this seminar is expected to focus on "community-based research towards the prevention and control of zoonotic diseases which affect the health of communities and endangers the lives of many people," he said.

Touqan also expressed his confidence in the role that HCST will play during the seminar. "I am sure it will participate in the role of scientific and health development in Jordan and the Arab World, as well as promoting and

encouraging the research activities in this field," he added.

In his address, president of seminar, Dr. Oumeish Our pointed out the objective of a "constructive" seminar: "It will try to highlight the status of knowledge on zoonotic and other parasitic diseases in the region."

According to Oumeish, research needs will be identified, and scientific cooperation within the region and with international scientists is to be strengthened.

Other important objectives include a follow up on the made towards establishing a regional centre of excellence for zoonotic diseases in Amman. "All this would help direct attention and work of those responsible towards a more effective prevention and control of these diseases," he said.

In ten scientific sessions, the three-day seminar is to discuss a number of working papers presented by both Jordanian and non-Jordanian participants.

Delegates from Canada, Egypt, Greece, Guatemala, Iraq, Lebanon, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Switzerland, Tunisia, the United Kingdom, USA, Zimbabwe and Jordan are attending the seminar.

18,038 road accidents registered in '88

Meeting seeks ways to check traffic problems in Jordan

AMMAN (J.T.) — A two-day seminar on means to contain traffic problems in Jordan opened in Amman Tuesday, and the delegates heard appeals for close cooperation between all private and public organisations in the country to reduce the number of road accidents.

Public Security Department (PSD) Director Fadel Ali Fuhaid, who opened the sessions, noted that scientific and technological development worldwide has led to the creation of problems for society, and also left its negative as well as positive impact on Jordan.

"Such development brought with it a number of factors which have been posing serious threat to security and stability," Fuhaid said.

He said perhaps the most chronic problem resulting from such development is the one that has been plaguing traffic.

"Despite the fact that the development of means of transport and communications has served

as a boon for modern society, failure to introduce organisation and good management has resulted in adverse effects causing societies to suffer," Fuhaid pointed out.

This meeting, Fuhaid added, is taking place as Jordan is now witnessing a growing number of traffic problems affecting the Jordanian people's health, economic and social conditions.

"Policemen and the government are not enough to put an end to the problems, but close cooperation on the part of all organisations and individuals are rather needed to stem the danger and its causes," Fuhaid said.

Brigadier Mohammad Bassoul, director of the police academy in Amman, reported that road accidents in Jordan, which registered 2,853 in 1970, rose to 18,038 by the end of 1988.

Bassoul said the increase in the number of accidents caused the death of 364 people in 1988, up from 209 in 1970; and the injured were 9,953 in 1988, up from 2,200

in 1970. Bassoul noted that whereas the number of registered vehicles in Jordan stood at 21,970 in 1970, they registered 249,590 by the end of 1988.

He said statistics show that one third of the injured are young people, and for this reason serious efforts on the part of schools, charitable societies, official departments and clubs are needed to put an end to the continued drain on manpower and material wealth.

After the opening ceremony, the participants, who represent government departments and security services, reviewed several working papers in two successive sessions. Among those represented is the Jordanian Society for the Prevention of the Road Accidents.

The seminar has been organised by the PSD in cooperation with a number of government departments and voluntary societies in Jordan.

Committee for 'King's Highway' exhibition leaves for Tokyo

AMMAN (Petra) — The preparatory committee for the cultural exhibition "The King's Highway: 9000 years of Art and Culture in Jordan," which will be held in Tokyo on Oct. 26, left Amman Tuesday.

The six-day exhibition, organised by the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities in cooperation with the Japanese government and

private sector, includes a number of film-shows on tourist and archaeological sites in Jordan, folkloric dresses and rare antiquities.

On the sideline of the exhibition, a symposium on tourism in Jordan will be held in the Japanese capital and 120,000 tourist promotion material will be distributed in Japanese language.

Commenting on the importance of such exhibitions the ministry's Secretary General, Nasri Atallah, said that they play a very important role in marketing tourism in Jordan abroad.

He pointed out that similar exhibitions were held in Paris in 1987 as well as West Germany and Austria in 1988.

Aqaba-Nweibeh route to operate hovercraft for trial period—Smadi

AMMAN (J.T.) — A senior government official expects tourism boom in Jordan in general and Aqaba in particular with further improvement in transport and the introduction of a hovercraft service

Aqaba-Nweibeh Land-Sea Route.

The 100-passenger hovercraft will be put into operation for a one-month trial period at first during the peak tourist season in the southern city of Aqaba, Smadi noted in a recent interview with Al Dustour daily newspaper.

The idea is to reduce pressure on the land-sea route and to boost tourism, Smadi noted.

The Ministry of Tourism in Jordan, Smadi added, has taken

proper measures to make the trial period successful.

Referring to railway links with Syria, Smadi said that the existing line, which has recently been reactivated, carries tourists, passengers and goods.

But a replacement of the line with wider rails and more modern locomotives will require huge investments, although such development would boost tourism in both countries, he added.

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Regional, national concerns

DIFFERENT regions of the Kingdom have different priority issues determining the votes of their constituencies. This is natural. Accordingly, the south of the country would probably regard the economical development of its region as uppermost on the minds of the voters there. There is a general consensus in the southern part of the country that that region has been unduly neglected by Amman in comparison with other parts of the country and that is evidenced by the fact that poverty and disease are still rampant there. The north, generally viewed as blessed with fertile lands and rich agriculture, would probably seek to consolidate its economic strength by additional economic fortifications.

On the other hand, the Balqa region, which is centred around Salt city, is in the happy position of being sandwiched between the north and the south both literally and figuratively speaking. Thus its priority issues are closer to those of the centre of the country, where Amman, the heart of the country, is situated. The capital Amman obviously concerns itself with the totality of the issues that affect the country whether economic, political, educational or social. As for Zerga and its district, the concerns there are unique and peculiar stemming from its huge industrial base.

Yet there must be a common denominator linking all the regions of the country in one common cause which serves as the common thread that unites the entire population of the country in one paramount endeavour. That unifying catalyst is of course the shared conviction that their common country must continue to occupy a key place in the Middle East region and that the identity of its people is a cherished treasure that will be preserved, honoured and defended at all costs. Jordanians of all shades and roots have a collective vested interest in forging together a strategy to consolidate what they and their forefathers had struggled so diligently for throughout the past century. When the Great Arab Revolt reached the shore of the country and gave full expression to national aspirations in the country, the struggle of Jordanians proceeded forward at full speed ahead with Jordanians of all walks of life, heavily participating in its continued progress and consolidation. This is what the voters from all regions of the country have uppermost on their minds and hearts when they cast their votes for their representatives on Nov. 8. And they will surely vote for those who will never betray that solemn oath to protect and develop the country on the basis of enlightened guidelines.

JORDAN PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i Arabic daily on Tuesday warned the candidates running for the coming parliament against excessive promises to the electorate, and said that one has to be realistic and should differentiate between the aspirations and the means to achieve them. The paper said that all Jordanians want to find solutions for the problems that they have been confronting; and all citizens support the candidates' drive to introduce modernisation towards achieving a better and brighter life. But, it said, it must be noted that not all that is said can be achieved like magic. The paper said that even after they enter parliament the candidates will not be able to bring about the aspired change overnight, although they might be determined to fulfill their promises to the voters. It is only fair for the candidates to be quite honest with themselves and with the voters who will elect them to parliament, said the paper. It stressed the need for the candidates not to be over enthusiastic about matters which they know they cannot deal with, or for which they are not sure to find solutions.

A columnist in Al Ra'i daily focuses attention on the Egyptian-Libyan meeting and hopes that it will lead to fruitful results, opening the door for more constructive work that can enhance Arab unity. Tareq Masarweh says that the Libyan leader's former policies were unproductive since he used to point an accusation finger at other Arab leaders, and used to employ big slogans which he proved unable to implement. The writer accuses the Libyan president's policies of not assuming serious and stable attitude specially in his dealing with other Arab countries. Even by his own standards the Libyan leader's policies achieved nothing for his countrymen, the writer notes. He says indeed the opposite of what the Libyan president had hoped to achieve came about; and nothing of his slogans were implemented. Masarweh says that the Arab masses can no more be taken in by empty slogans like those that filled the Arab atmosphere in the 1950s, and advises the Libyan leader to focus his attention on bolstering his relations more seriously with Egypt and Sudan on the one hand, and with his partners in the Maghreb union on the other.

Al Dustour daily took up the current election campaign in Jordan and noted that representatives of various public sectors are nominated to take up seats in the coming parliament. There is no doubt that the economic, social and educational developments over the past two decades have acted as a catalyst to make the Jordanian citizens and their candidates so mature politically and so determined to take part in endeavours for serving their nation, the paper noted. The paper referred to King Hussein's address on the eve of the election campaign in which he called on the Jordanian citizens to be conscientious and aware of the dangers surrounding their nation; and those elect responsible candidates to work for the future. The current meetings between voters and candidates, the paper said, is a healthy development, since it can help bolster the democratic process and pave the way for the coming parliament's work, the paper added. The paper echoed the King's statement in which he reminded the nation of the serious problems that await proper solutions and responsible deputies that can help bring them about.

Prisoner release gives ANC a legal voice

By Greg Myre
The Associated Press

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa — The unconditional release of seven African National Congress leaders is a resounding political victory for the guerrilla movement at a time when its military campaign has been dormant.

The hero's welcome for the seven, including six imprisoned for a quarter-century, reflects the powerful grass-roots support the ANC has among blacks despite repeated setbacks and government crackdowns throughout its 77-year history.

The ANC has been outlawed since 1960, and President F.W. de Klerk remains adamant that the organisation must renounce violence before it will be allowed to participate in negotiations for a new constitution.

However, the freeing of the

ANC leaders, coupled with de Klerk's recent decision to allow peaceful mass protests, "virtually amounts to de facto validation of the banned ANC," said the Sunday Times, the country's largest selling newspaper.

"At the very least, the demonisation of the ANC has begun," the newspaper said in an editorial.

The unconditional release of the seven marks the first time ranking ANC leaders have been permitted to engage in political activity in South Africa since the organisation was banned.

Also, government officials have been conferring with the ANC's imprisoned leader, Nelson Mandela, whose release is widely expected within the next several months. There is speculation he wants the ANC to be formally accepted as legal political force before he leaves prison. ANC supporters, long denied

the chance to express their political sympathies, now have the green, gold and black ANC flag at marches — an action that previously brought swift police action.

At a rally in Durban, the ANC banner was raised on the flagpole at city hall and police allowed it to remain until the end of the demonstration.

Black-oriented newspapers have been printing articles favourable to the ANC and running pictures of its imprisoned and exiled leaders in outright defiance of government censorship laws.

New Nation, one of the country's most militant opposition newspapers, on Friday printed its entire front pages in green, gold and black, and ran pictures of the seven ex-prisoners under the headline, "ANC lives."

Such developments seemed unthinkable as recently as a year ago.

Then-President P.W. Botha and his security officials ceaselessly denounced the ANC as a Communist-led terrorist group that would be barred from any negotiations.

In addition, the ANC appeared to be in a period of uncertainty.

ANC President Oliver Tambo, 71, suffered a stroke in August and remains at a clinic in London. He has no clear successor, and there has been speculation of a rift between ANC hardliners who want increased military action and political leaders who believe negotiations could be on the horizon.

While the ANC publicly calls for an escalation of its armed struggle, there have been fewer attacks this year than any time since nationwide black unrest erupted in 1984.

There have been more than 210 bombings responsible for 37 deaths since a state-of-emergency

was declared in June 1986. But the totals for this year are about 40 bombings and three deaths.

The ANC, based in Lusaka, Zambia, was forced to close its major military bases in Angola this year under a regional peace treaty signed by South Africa, Angola and Cuba.

The ANC has refused to say where the several thousand guerrillas were sent, but several reports said they were moved to Uganda and Tanzania, two countries that have little day-to-day contact with the southern African region.

The South African government also has been successful in easing its diplomatic isolation on the continent, with Botha and de Klerk meeting several black African leaders in the past year.

The ANC's bid to increase economic sanctions on South Africa has waned, with few new punitive measures being imposed

in the past two years. While the government can claim a string of small victories, the ANC's support, particularly among the young, is considered stronger than ever.

Thousands of black youths fled South Africa in 1976 amid nationwide black violence to join the ANC and the organisation says about it has been receiving around 100 new recruits a month since the unrest of 1984.

The organisation has an estimated 15,000 formal members in exile, and millions of supporters inside South Africa, where blacks account for 28 million of the 37 million population.

Most political analysts believe the ANC would be the biggest vote getter if open elections were held. Even relatively conservative black leaders at odds with ANC say it must be unbanned before serious political negotiations can take place.

White backlash fear in S.Africa

By William MacLean
Reuters

JOHANNESBURG — Fears of a white backlash against militant blacks grew in South Africa on Monday after jailed black activists released at the weekend immediately returned to political activity.

Pro-government South African newspapers warned the freed men against political militancy, saying it would hinder Nelson Mandela's release and delay reform.

The Citizen, which has close ties to the white National Party (NP) government, said continued black protests following the release of the eight men on Sunday after long prison terms could provoke a backlash from minority whites.

Within hours of the newspaper's warning, a bomb exploded early on Monday at the home of Ram Bulhula, a top official of the anti-apartheid Transvaal Indian Congress, shattering 19 windows and damaging a door. There were no injuries.

"I feel this attack may have been politically motivated," said Bulhula, an ethnic Indian who was at home with his wife and three children in the conservative white mining town of Springs in Eastern Transvaal Province when the bomb went off.

In its editorial comment, The Citizen said: "Our advice to the ex-prisoners is to act without provocation, since their release tests the waters for the release of Nelson Mandela, and nothing that happens should make the government think twice about freeing him."

The Afrikaans-language Beeld

said the eight would be sorely tempted to play a militant political role.

"We would seriously plead with them to resist those temptations... if there is to be reconciliation it must come from both sides."

The Independent Business Day urged the eight to display "patience, tolerance and willingness to compromise."

It said: "White counter-action to black rallies, marches and acts of defiance will become a growing threat, especially when the internal ANC misuses its new found freedom to act openly."

The newspaper described the release of the eight nationalists as "an essential part of the pre-negotiation process."

New President F.W. de Klerk says black domestic reaction to the largest ever release of top ANC activists will determine when South Africa's longest serving political prisoner is freed.

Mandela's release would signal that Pretoria is ready for talks with the banned African National Congress (ANC) on easing 40 years of apartheid and giving voiceless blacks a role in government.

The government brands ANC members as Communist terrorists but has hinted their leaders may eventually be allowed a part in talks with Pretoria along with other black groups.

The seven ANC members among the eight, who include former ANC Secretary-General Walter Sisulu, on Sunday held the organisation's first news conference in South Africa since it was banned 29 years ago.

The seven, who have never renounced the use of violence in

the anti-apartheid struggle, vowed to fight on until there was a non-racial South Africa.

"We don't choose people in terms of black or white, we are talking about a democratic method where black men and white men can be president. There is no question of having it on colour," said Sisulu, 77.

On Monday the ex-prisoners, who together spent 185 years in captivity for trying to overthrow white rule, enjoyed their first full day of freedom resting with family and friends near Johannesburg and Pretoria.

Soweto, South Africa's biggest township, was festooned with the ANC's green and gold and black coloured flags on Sunday, but most had been taken down by Monday.

"It's very quiet in the township today, but there was a lot of singing last night," said one resident.

ANC flags and banners have been increasingly on display illegally in black townships since the releases were announced and were a prominent feature of mass marches around the country on Saturday hailing the eight's imminent freedom.

The Citizen appealed to whites not to react with anger or frustration to the flying of ANC or Communist flags.

Hundreds of youths danced in dusty streets chanting slogans honouring the ANC and Sisulu. Mandela's closest comrade in arms and a leading member of Umkhonto We Sizwe (Spear of the Nation), the ANC's military wing.

"Welcome home, Umkhonto soldier," read one slogan.

Paralysis under the peaks

By Derek Brown

DEMOCRACY may have taken root here, as the ruling Pakistan People's Party claims. But its shoots are taking an unexpected turn: a political landscape highlighted by intrigue, pettiness and sheer intolerance.

In the 10-month-old era of Benazir Bhutto, the National Assembly has yet to pass a single significant piece of legislation. Most ministers in the bloated 50-member PPP cabinet spend little time in their offices. Instead, they demonstrate their political manliness by vying with the opposition to hold ever bigger mass rallies.

While the economy stagnates and the problems of poverty grow daily more acute, planning and investment decisions are concentrated ever more tightly into the twin peaks of the power pyramid: the Prime Minister's office, and the Bhutto family.

Ms. Bhutto's mother, Mrs. Begum Nusrat Bhutto, is effective deputy prime minister, and is increasingly active in foreign policy. The prime minister's husband, Asif Zardari, is not a formal member of the family business, but he has become an important influence-broker. The widespread belief that Mr. Zardari's own extensive business interests have prospered uncharacteristically this year are bitterly denied by his own family. Especially by Mr. Hakim Ali Zardari, the prime minister's father-in-law and chairman of the parliamentary Public Accounts Committee.

A web of patronage, typical of the subcontinent, stretches far

beyond the Bhutto family. Estimates of the number of high and low-level public sector jobs given to PPP supporters range from 20,000 to 80,000. The process also works in reverse: more than 70 top-flight civil servants, between a quarter and a third of the total, are now officially OSD — On Special Duty. This coy bureaucratic gabble means that they are suspended, on suspicion of being less than totally loyal to the ruling clique.

For all this concentration of power, the PPP grip on Pakistan is far from total. The party does not have an absolute majority in the National Assembly, and depends on allies who always have a price for loyalty. In the Senate, which has important delaying powers, the ruling party is heavily outnumbered.

At the provincial level, the PPP controls only Sindh and the North-West Frontier. Opposition parties are in charge of Baluchistan, the smallest and perpetually turbulent western province, and in Punjab, which is bigger than all the rest put together.

The chief minister of Punjab is Mr. Mian Nawaz Sharif. He is Benazir Bhutto's bete noire, the man who would be king. As the head of the main opposition grouping, the Islamic Democratic Alliance (IDA), and as the former protégé of President Zia Ul Haq, he personifies all that the PPP opposes and fears.

The confrontation between Punjab and the federal capital has come close to the kind of constitutional crisis which could provoke yet another military intervention, in a country which has known martial law or versions of it for three-quarters of its independent life. Federal officials have been arrested in Punjab; provincial officers threatened in Islamabad. Of the 74 top civil servants who are OSD, all but two are Punjab.

Nawaz Sharif has responded with gusto. He says he will set up a Punjab bank, a Punjab television station, a Punjab water and power service.

Sharif's hatred of the PPP and the Bhuttos is palpable. He believes them to be the antithesis of the Islamic Pakistan which the old dictator, Zia, tried to build. The chief minister told an IDA rally in Lahore last month: "Benazir Bhutto's government is the enemy of Pakistan and seeks to establish Indian hegemony in the country... the PPP's days are numbered... we will hold them accountable and dump the Bhuttos' remains in the Arabian Sea..."

Up to a couple of months ago, this inflammatory rhetoric was matched, word for belligerent word, in PPP rally speeches. In recent weeks, however, the prime minister and her supporters have made a significant switch of style. Instead of violent attacks on the heirs of Zia, and extravagant self-praise of the defenders of democracy, there is a new emphasis on national unity and continuity. Two institutions are praised: the armed forces, and the Quaid-e-Azam, Mohammed Ali Jinnah, founder of the nation.

The army has responded handsomely, softening its insistence on an Islamic military victory in Afghanistan, and offering full support to democracy. The army chief, General Aslam Beg, has brushed aside recent persistent accounts of unrest in the cantonments. "A coup is absolutely impossible," he told reporters. "The army is solidly behind the government and wishes to see democracy take root."

Many Pakistani leader-writers and other observers have welcomed this conciliatory trend, with reservations. They detect a bid by the PPP not only to defuse the dangerous confrontation with Punjab, but to reassure the middle classes who worry about the government's hitherto deeply partisan approach. And yet, as

the Nation newspaper said a few days ago: "The Bhutto government must realise that in the final analysis it will be judged by its performance alone. There is a world to win beyond the rallies race."

There are some problems which even the most ardent admirer of the Bhutto democracy would not expect quick resolution, especially by a party which had not known power for 11 years.

The economy is burdened by debt, a crushing defence budget, and ingrained corruption. There is an appalling law and order problem, especially in the southern province of Sindh. There are boiling ethnic rivalries, especially between Sindh and the Mohajirs, or Urdu-speaking post-independent immigrants from India. There is a frightening drugs-and-guns culture, with close on two million known heroin addicts, and an endless supply of weapons in the hands of traffickers and gangsters. And there is the explosive uncertainty of the Afghan situation, with more than three million miserable refugees to take care of.

But perhaps more important than any of these, is the central fact of poverty. Pakistan's per capita income is in decline, as are its literacy levels. Eight thousand more Pakistanis are born every day, and the capacity to feed and educate them is stretched.

In the face of this imperative need, and the close identity of the PPP with the masses, it is curious that so much has been promised, and so little done.

The record of the National Assembly is particularly dismal. So-called debate consists of a mass of points of order, questions and raucous interventions. Most days could be summarised in the manner of the sketch writer for the Muslim newspaper, who recorded on Monday: "Pandemonium and furor ensued, accentuated with rowdiness."

He was describing the most colourful clash to date between the chair, and the opposition's most skilled parliamentary operator, Mrs. Abida Hussain. She is an independent, whose natural antipathy to the PPP has deepened almost to despair.

"Within less than a year, most members (of the National Assembly) are in a cynical and unenthused state of mind," she said recently. "The spirit of service to the people, and of getting on with the job of improving democratic government: all that has gone."

One of the reasons for parliamentary cynicism is sheer boredom. The ruling party is unwilling to risk defeat by introducing legislation. Ms. Bhutto appears regularly, always with a favouring retinue, but speaks rarely. No issue of importance, like Pakistan's entry to the Commonwealth this month, has been debated.

Mrs. Hussain and her husband, former Assembly Speaker Faqr Imam, now fear that the ruling party's lust for total power, and its ineffective use of it, might provoke another military intervention.

It is difficult to find in Pakistan, outside the sycophantic ranks of the PPP, anyone who shares the rosate view still generally taken by outsiders. According to Senator Claiborne Pell, who visited Pakistan in August as chairman of the U.S. Senate foreign relations committee, "democracy in Pakistan is flourishing." He found that the press was free (mostly true), that parliamentary debate was robust (highly arguable) and that the state media gave coverage to the opposition (about 10 per cent of that given to the daily Bhutto show).

But then, it's easy, living outside the daily hardships and miseries that afflict most Pakistanis, to be mesmerised by the young, beautiful and intelligent woman who stands for democracy.

— The Guardian.

Shivers down the spine of Europe

By John Palmer

THE SPEED and unpredictability of events in Eastern Europe are causing almost as many hairs to grey in Brussels as in Berlin or Prague. At both NATO and the European Commission there is no mistaking the misgivings and the growing concern about the pace of change in the East and there is significantly less euphoria than earlier this summer.

Of course there are those who revel in the ideological defeat sustained by the "Communist" world and who openly proclaim the West's final "victory" over the East as a fitting culmination to the 40-year-old confrontation which began with the onset of cold war in 1948. But this is not the language employed by the more perceptive strategists at NATO headquarters: the talk is more about the danger that the Warsaw Pact may disintegrate before the West has decided what its response should be.

To some extent this simply reflects apprehension that if the Warsaw Pact breaks up, the last remaining rationale for NATO's own existence disappears as well.

This partly explains why its secretary general, Mr. Manfred Woerner, has tried to make out a case for NATO's future role being to "contain" even a post-Communist and heavily disarmed Russia which, nonetheless, would remain a significant geo-political power.

Of course the cold war Tweedledee has always depended on the continued existence of Tweedledum. Hence the extravagance of some Western "Soviet threat" theorists who are now reduced to basing their case for continued Western military preparedness on the danger that an unduly rapid break-up of the Soviet Union itself might destabilise the alliance by encouraging similarly centripetal tendencies in the West.

No one in their right mind can dispute the obvious dangers that accompany the traumas in East

Germany, Hungary, Poland and parts of the Soviet Union.

The threat that a frightened bureaucracy might unleash a European "Titanium Square" — led before Mr. Honecker's jointly veiled warning last week to the democracy movement in the GDR.

Quite apart from the risk of an eventual lurch back to violent repression, no one should underestimate the growing economic and social tensions which are to be found as much in those East European countries which have embarked on the road of market liberalisation as in those still clinging to the decaying remnants of a Stalinist command economy.

That is why Mr. Lech Walesa's recent warning of the possibility of civil war sent so many shivers down the spine of European Community governments.

The Solidarity chief was complaining about the accelerating rate of price increases in Poland — something which goes to the heart of the liberalising strategy being urged on the East Europeans by the West. However the involvement of the European Commission in the economic reform programmes of the authorities in Budapest and Warsaw already goes far beyond the proffering of food aid and economic advice.

The Commission, also acting on behalf not just of the West Europeans but of the 24 OECD Western industrialised nations, is also helping the Polish and Hungarian governments prepare the wholesale restructuring of their agriculture and industry, using resources created in part by the sale at market prices of surplus EC foodstocks to carry this through.

If this strategy goes wrong or if it leads to confrontation with Polish or Hungarian workers in the months and years ahead, the political blame may fall as much on the European Community as on the authorities in Budapest or Prague.

But whatever their doubts ab-

out economic restructuring, all the signs are that the Hungarians and the Poles want to move politically closer to the European Community. And they are unlikely to be alone in this ambition.

The secession-minded Slovenes in Yugoslavia have hinted that they would love to march hand in hand with their Austrian neighbours into the EC, while similar noises off are coming from the Baltic states which are, at the same time, planning to cut their economies adrift from the Soviet Union.

Meanwhile influential socialist opposition thinkers, such as Boris Kargoditsky in the Soviet Union and some leaders of the Polish Socialist Party, increasingly talk of a "third camp" strategy between Stalinism and free market capitalism. But they envisage this in terms of democratic planning of the ecology and the environment at a pan-European rather than a purely national level.

The Commission's president, Mr. Jacques Delors, does not disguise his alarm at the pace of these developments.

Quite apart from the nightmare proportions of the economic and political problems the aspirant East European member states would bring with them to Brussels, he knows that other West European EFTA countries (notably Austria and Norway) are also edging closer to the 12.

The conventional wisdom in Brussels is that a new enlargement to absorb the admittedly rich and relatively successful EFTA countries could kill the Community's own integration plans stone dead.

The belief that enlargement is the enemy of European integration is, on the historical evidence, suspect. It is true that the original six EC member states were far more homogeneous economically and politically than the present 12. But the admission of Britain, Denmark and Ireland did force the development of more serious regional and social policies in the EC. The accession of the three

Mediterranean countries since then helped trigger the long overdue reform of the Common Agricultural Policy — and directly stimulated the Single European Act and its modest reforms of the Community's decision making processes.

The simple fact is that any further enlargement of the Community — even one involving relatively unproblematic West European countries such as Norway — would make further reform of the EC institutions imperative. And such a reform could only really be in the direction of greater "federalism" given the supranational character of the economic, political and social challenges facing Europe.

It is not so much that the EC would extend its authority into areas which are presently the unchallenged preserve of national and (in some countries) regional government. But an enlarged Community would still have to be given greater authority where developments in the real world are continuing to overtake the scope of national states.

Mr. Delors recognises that if the European Community itself is not the best instrument for a wider and increasing pan-European grouping, some other body will have to be created for just this purpose. But until now no one has dared even sketch out what such a pan-European framework might look like and whether it would subsume interested East Europeans as well as the EC and the six EFTA states.

Until the present explosion of opposition to the regime in the GDR, it was just possible to imagine that there was time enough to work out some long-term and gradualist goals for a wider European reunification. What is now happening on the streets of Dresden, Leipzig and East Berlin is dramatically shortening that time — The Guardian.

Beit Sahur's Tea Party

By Michal Sela

ON A DECEMBER night in 1973, in order to protest against the British policy of "taxation without representation," a band of Boston patriots staged an event that is remembered as the Boston Tea Party. Dressed as Red Indians, they boarded three ships at Boston port and dumped their cargoes of tea overboard.

Elias Rashmawi's "tea party" has been going on for over a year. Yesterday he attended his first court session at the Ramallah military court, where the West Bank military authorities are suing him for not paying his taxes. He was arrested a week ago, and an official at the office of the legal adviser to the Civil Administration told his attorney, Muna Rashmawi, that she could not find any valid reason for his arrest.

Three months ago, representatives of the tax authorities, accompanied by troops, loaded all the stock in his pharmacy, worth \$150,000, onto a truck.

However, Rashmawi doesn't intend to give up. It is a matter of principle for him and for the Beit Sahur community, which has adopted the 224-year-old concept: no taxation without representation.

Beit Sahur, on the way from Bethlehem to Herodian, is a town of 12,000 with a Christian majority and a Muslim minority. A town of pastoral tranquility, of small houses surrounded by gardens, it is a site for Christian pilgrims who wish to visit the Shepherds' Fields. This is a community with a rare solidarity and internal coherence, composed of people who believe they can beat the Israeli occupation using peaceful means.

When the intifada started, almost two years ago, the people of Beit Sahur chose a unique path. When the first leaflets were distributed by the Unified Leadership of the Uprising, Beit Sahur absorbed them down to the last detail and adopted the recommendation that most appealed to them: civil disobedience.

They threw stones at troops and at settlers' cars going through the town on their way to Tekoa and erected stone barricades across the streets. On one occasion, an Israeli truck was torched. Palestinian flags and nationalist graffiti were, and still are, seen about. These were minor instances of violence, compared to other towns in the West Bank.

In Beit Sahur, the soldiers' response has been somewhat different from other places: here, people haven't been killed by bullets; the first local intifada death, that of Edmond Ghanem, was caused by a stone dropped on him by a soldier from the top of a building used as a military lookout post.

Civil disobedience began with the idea of "home economy." Well-off families adopted a regime of self-imposed austerity, while a group of agronomists, professors at Bethlehem University, introduced the concept of applied science. Based on their own knowledge and experiments, they opened a nursery and gave their neighbours professional guidance on how to grow their own

salad vegetables.

The garden around the house of agronomist Jad Is'hak, a leading figure in the home-economy education effort, looked like a vegetable paradise. Food dehydration and preserving technology, which Is'hak had studied for years, was being put into practice.

The security forces, however, didn't like the idea. To them, dispersing violent demonstrations is child's play compared to fighting the battle of the vegetables.

Jad Is'hak and his friends were harassed, and the nursery was closed down by military order. Is'hak was put under administrative detention for six months, but the tomatoes went on growing in the small gardens, and the chickens went on laying fresh eggs.

THE CLOSURE OF the schools was the least damaging factor in Beit Sahur. While youths in nearby Bethlehem were busy throwing stones at troops and tourists, children in Beit Sahur were busy reading and being taught at home. "It's easy," a Beit Sahur mother said at the time. "Most of the teachers in the surrounding villages come from here, including many women."

Then, in May last year, the tax disobedience started and Beit Sahur experienced its first tax raid. The authorities believed that a series of curfews and a heavy troop presence could bring the people to heel, as they had in

other towns and villages. Instead, hundreds of Beit Sahur people submitted their ID cards to the municipality and held a sit-down strike which went on for hours. This reaction was unfamiliar to the military authorities, who reacted with force, mass arrests and a curfew.

About three months ago, the military and tax authorities renewed their tax collection campaign — and this time, they got really tough. Systematically, day

want to have old age pension and schools for my grandchildren. I don't get that here."

Does he really need the suffering the whole town is going through?

"We don't need the intifada, but we want our identity, we want our children to have a secure future. We sacrifice in order to save bloodshed and innocent souls."

AN UPHOLSTERER was one of

'No taxation without representation'

those arrested three months ago as a means of applying pressure, and held for several days in Bethlehem's military jail. "In the Middle Ages jails were better. Seventy people in one small room, using their shoes for pillows — you can imagine the situation. A cup of rice was thrown on the floor. That was our lunch. Each tomato was divided into five."

From time to time, a detainee would be taken to the downtown tax office and told that all the others had paid their taxes. "Nobody took the trick seriously," said the man. They were released without any legal procedure, the way they had been arrested.

"I'm an upholsterer, not a politician. I work and I have to pay taxes, but as long as the government can't give me protection, I don't pay. Let them put me in jail as long as they wish. When you conquered the place, I said, 'Ahlan wasahlan!' I have

What is the solution? "You are the solution. Under occupation, you're not allowed to collect taxes." The man's son, who was taken at night by the troops to watch the confiscation, says that in such circumstances, it's no surprise that incidents like the one involving bus No. 405 happen. "You drive us all crazy," he says.

Rashmawi, Elias' mother, supports her son's disobedience. "When I pay taxes, I

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They threw stones at troops and at settlers' cars going through the town on their way to Tekoa and erected stone barricades across the streets. On one occasion, an Israeli truck was torched. Palestinian flags and nationalist graffiti were, and still are, seen about. These were minor instances of violence, compared to other towns in the West Bank.

In Beit Sahur, the soldiers' response has been somewhat different from other places: here, people haven't been killed by bullets; the first local intifada death, that of Edmond Ghanem, was caused by a stone dropped on him by a soldier from the top of a building used as a military lookout post.

Civil disobedience began with the idea of "home economy." Well-off families adopted a regime of self-imposed austerity, while a group of agronomists, professors at Bethlehem University, introduced the concept of applied science. Based on their own knowledge and experiments, they opened a nursery and gave their neighbours professional guidance on how to grow their own

salad vegetables.

The garden around the house of agronomist Jad Is'hak, a leading figure in the home-economy education effort, looked like a vegetable paradise. Food dehydration and preserving technology, which Is'hak had studied for years, was being put into practice.

The security forces, however, didn't like the idea. To them, dispersing violent demonstrations is child's play compared to fighting the battle of the vegetables.

Jad Is'hak and his friends were harassed, and the nursery was closed down by military order. Is'hak was put under administrative detention for six months, but the tomatoes went on growing in the small gardens, and the chickens went on laying fresh eggs.

THE CLOSURE OF the schools was the least damaging factor in Beit Sahur. While youths in nearby Bethlehem were busy throwing stones at troops and tourists, children in Beit Sahur were busy reading and being taught at home. "It's easy," a Beit Sahur mother said at the time. "Most of the teachers in the surrounding villages come from here, including many women."

Then, in May last year, the tax disobedience started and Beit Sahur experienced its first tax raid. The authorities believed that a series of curfews and a heavy troop presence could bring the people to heel, as they had in

other towns and villages. Instead, hundreds of Beit Sahur people submitted their ID cards to the municipality and held a sit-down strike which went on for hours. This reaction was unfamiliar to the military authorities, who reacted with force, mass arrests and a curfew.

About three months ago, the military and tax authorities renewed their tax collection campaign — and this time, they got really tough. Systematically, day

want to have old age pension and schools for my grandchildren. I don't get that here."

Does he really need the suffering the whole town is going through?

"We don't need the intifada, but we want our identity, we want our children to have a secure future. We sacrifice in order to save bloodshed and innocent souls."

Then, after a while, as home-made lemonade is being served, he adds: "The Israelis use us as simple labourers. We don't have any services in town, no national insurance, no unemployment benefits. They don't allow us to develop a real modern industry. Why, after all, should we pay taxes?"

With all the hardship following the confiscation of hundreds of dollars' worth of property, Beit Sahur has not surrendered. The residents are making a real nuisance of themselves to the authorities, who tried their luck once more. Last week became hell for the town, with at least 40 families subjected to the confiscation of private and commercial property. This week, dozens more have suffered confiscation.

The tax officials, escorted by troops, go from house to house humiliating and beating people. The residents relate. Some have complained that the troops put personal items in their pockets, including money. They took a butcher's furniture; in another house, they stopped the washing machine, pulled out the laundry and took the machine away with them. Many people were arrested, always by the army, as "security detainees," although the nature of their violation of the law is civilian.

All this happened only a day after some local youths taught a suspected local collaborator a lesson in "peaceful harassment." They shouted slogans against him near his house. The man threw stones in return, erected a roadblock and attacked passers-by. When Mayor Hanna Al-Atrash happened to drive past, the "collaborator" took him hostage and released him only after dire threats from the people who came to rescue the mayor.

As a punishment, youths evacuated all the women and children from the house, took out most of the furniture and torched the house, not before beating the "collaborator" and other men in the family.

When the townspeople began contacting the press and Jewish friends in Jerusalem, the military authorities imposed a curfew and cut all the telephone lines. Night curfew became routine.

WITH ALL THIS behind them, Beit Sahur is still disobedient. "Beit Sahur has eight founding fathers. Hundreds of years have passed since they came here, lived together and married among themselves," the upholsterer says, giving a short historical background to the town's solidarity. "Today, anybody you can name — I know his wife and children. In July, we were under curfew for 21 days, and nobody went hungry."

Other people mention liberal attitudes and the large proportion of educated people as the reasons for Beit Sahur's different but much more successful intifada. "The idea behind civil disobedience," says a resident who requested anonymity, "is to make the intifada a non-violent activity."

Why, for the time being, has it succeeded only in Beit Sahur?

"We are the Japan of the West Bank; a community of highly educated, independent and enterprising people," says the resident, adding that Beit Sahur combines the solidarity of a village and the liberal lifestyle of a town. Out of all the West Bank communities, Beit Sahur — both as individuals and as a group — maintains continuous contacts with Israelis. Its residents play tennis at the Tennis Centre in Jerusalem's San Simon neighbourhood, and there is a "dialogue relationship" with a Jewish group from the capital.

"There is no contradiction between the two," says Emili Rashmawi. "Taxes to the occupier are one thing; Israelis who find ways to reach us on curfew days are another. Whoever stretches out his arm in peace will meet my hand. But I can't live with those who come to me armed."

The media is also used as a means of struggle. Last Wednesday, Beit Sahur distributed a press release: "Taxes are paid by people to their own legitimate political bodies to cover the cost of services. The services provided to the Palestinians are opening new jails... building new settlements..."

The people of Beit Sahur are lamenting and disobeying, talking about the suffering caused by the troops and the tax people. At the same time, they announced this week in front of the television cameras: "The time has come to tell you: we shall continue employing non-violent tax resistance." — The Jerusalem Post.

Women power on the march worldwide

MORE THAN a billion women — one-third of the world's female population — will be in the economically active group at the dawn of the next century.

Although over 700 million of these women will be found in developing countries, their ranks will represent less than 50 per cent of the Third World female population between the ages of 15 and 64. The corresponding proportion in industrialised countries will be nearly 60 per cent.

These projections are based on an assumed continuation of trends which have evolved since the 1950s and they appear in a new ILO statistical analysis* of women and work. Charting the growth of women in the global workforce, it notes that in 1950 they numbered 263 million in developing countries and 148 million in the industrialised countries.

The study predicts that the shift in female employment from agriculture to industry and services will continue everywhere. It estimates that by the year 2000 the agricultural sector will absorb 57 per cent of the economically active women in developing countries whereas in 1950 the proportion was 87 per cent.

This decline will be even more striking in industrialised countries where only 8 per cent of economically active women will likely be found in agriculture by the turn of the century compared with 47 per cent in 1950.

In these countries women have turned to services far more than

to industry. In 1950 about 33 per cent of the economically active women were in services and about 20 per cent in industry. In 1980 the figures had risen to 58 per cent in services and 26 per cent in industry. And it is anticipated that the trend will become even more pronounced by the year 2000.

For Third World women employment in industry and services often means the informal sector although statistics concerning their participation tend to be incomplete, mainly because a good deal of their activities are not counted, the study says.

However, from the available data, in 1950 women made up 23 per cent of both the industry and services sectors in developing countries. If present patterns persist, it is expected that women will comprise 31 per cent of the non-agricultural sector by the year 2000.

The figures document increasing disparities between developing and developed countries in the prospects for equality between men and women in employment opportunities.

A telling example can be found when comparing women's overall share in the economically active population during the half century between 1950 and 2000. That share in industrialised countries was 37 per cent in 1950 and is projected to climb to 41 per cent by 2000. For women in developing countries the figure was and is expected to stay at 34 per cent — demonstrating almost no progress

during the 50-year period.

Another area in which Third World women are losing out is in the number of years they can anticipate being gainfully employed as a result of changes in their economic activity. This time span has fallen steadily since 1950, when they could count on a working life of 27 years. Expectations for the year 2000 show only 23 economically active years.

Again, a reverse situation exists in industrialised countries. In 1950 the average working life for women was 25 years and all indications point to an increase to 29 years by 2000.

The study shows frequent part-time work and disproportionately high unemployment among women in industrialised countries.

Similarly, the information reflects high levels of female unemployment in the developing countries as well as seasonal work. There is also an underestimation of the economic contribution of women, particularly in countries in North Africa, South Asia and the Caribbean.

In addition to dealing with global trends and prospects for this burgeoning womanpower, the study devotes separate sections to women in Africa, in Asia and Oceania, in Latin America and the Caribbean, and in market and centrally planned economies. Graphically detailed charts complement the study's meticulously researched text.

The message is clear: vigorous national and international efforts will be required to ensure women equal opportunity in access to



national and international efforts will be required to ensure women equal opportunity in access to

training and employment. The challenge is real since the billion women who will be in the labour

market in about a decade have already been born — ILO information

Latin American youth: A key challenge

By Todd Lewan
The Associated Press

RIO DE JANEIRO — The disillusionment of Latin American youth is partly the fault of the continent's huge debt, and the economic hardship it has brought. But experts say many other factors have caused youth to pass from a mood of optimism 10 years ago to one of disenchantment.

Latin youth have seen civilian authority eroded from within by corruption, inefficiency and indecision and challenged from without by disgruntled military officers, drug traffickers and leftist rebels.

Runaway inflation, shrinking buying power and spiralling unemployment only add to the gloom in the region. The replacement of authoritarian governments by elected civilian leaders has given hope of radical improvements in the economy, but these have been slow to come.

Meanwhile, newly restored press freedoms have exposed violence, environmental destruction and social injustice hidden during previous military rule, forcing the young to view their countries in a new and painfully realistic manner.

South America's young seem to be losing faith in the future and are emigrating in growing numbers to the United States and

Europe.

In Rio de Janeiro, visa lines of about 200 people, mostly young, form outside the U.S. consulate on business days. Similar lines are common in such capitals as Buenos Aires in Argentina and Montevideo in Uruguay.

In Buenos Aires, lines snake for blocks outside the Italian and Spanish embassies, where work papers can be obtained easily for children and grandchildren of Italians and Spaniards.

In Montevideo, one survey indicated, a third of youths age 15 to 29 hope to leave Uruguay to find a better job in Spain, Argentina or the United States.

As a result, most guidance counsellors and vocational experts say, the draining away of Latin American youth will deprive the region of the talent it needs to help solve its economic and social crises.

Even in Venezuela or Chile, two of Latin America's more economically stable nations, there is a vague belief among young people that things are getting worse.

"Finding a job will be more difficult than graduating," said Carlos Garofalo, an 18-year-old college student in Caracas, Venezuela.

University students often abandon school to work as maids, street peddlers, movie ushers or black marketeers.

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Jordan Times'
JORDAN MARKET PLACE

Trade deficit soars by \$10.7b

Wall Street jitters

NEW YORK (AP) — U.S. stocks retreated sharply Tuesday following two of the wildest sessions on Wall Street since the October 1987 market crash.

The Dow Jones average of 30 industrial stocks was off about 63 points at the 2,595 level shortly after 11:30 a.m. (1530 GMT). Broader market indicators also fell.

The Dow average had plummeted 190.58 points Friday and it bounced back with a 88.12-point gain Monday, leaving investors grouping for stable ground.

The Commerce Department handed the market some bad news Tuesday with its report that the U.S. foreign merchandise trade deficit rose nearly 31 per cent in August to \$10.77 billion from a revised July deficit of \$8.24 billion.

Many economists had expected the latest trade deficit to be about \$9 billion.

But analysts did not all agree that the big trade deficit was a major factor in Tuesday's stock decline. Some noted that bonds and the dollar — which are most sensitive to bad trade figures — held up relatively well in the early going.

The dollar partly recovered after a sharp drop after the trade report, while bonds were somewhat stronger — an indication that investors were not seriously worried about worsening inflation and higher interest rates.

"There's much more going on in the stock market at the moment than the trade numbers," said Lawrence Veit, international economist at Brown Brothers Harriman and Co. financial firm.

"You'll tend to see somewhat accentuated volatility this week and next," said Giulio Martini, economist at Sanford C. Bernstein and Co.

Monday's gain was concentrated in blue-chip stocks, which benefited from a "flight to quality" by nervous investors. It came on trading volume of 416.29 million shares, the heaviest ever except for the week of the 1987 market crash. The index's gain was the fourth-biggest point gain, although it was not among the biggest percentage gainers.

In the overall New York Stock Exchange Tuesday morning, declining issues outpaced advances by about 3-to-1 after the first two hours of trading. Volume on the

New York Stock Exchange totaled a heavier-than-usual 95 million shares.

European share prices ended mostly higher Tuesday after seeing uncertainty in active trading. The nervous European session followed good recoveries in Asia.

Tuesday's moves up and down were much less dramatic than Monday's gyrations, but trading disruptions continued. The Brussels exchange had computer problems for a second day, preventing significant trading since Friday.

London, the biggest market, finished up with a relatively moderate decline, but Frankfurt, which suffered a record drop Monday, saw big gains, in urgent buying.

In the morning, European share prices followed Tokyo's climb on relief over New York's strong finish Monday and that an all-out crash appeared to have been averted.

But then European share prices fell in the afternoon on worse-than-expected U.S. trade figures and on a subsequent weak opening on Wall Street.

In London, the Financial Times-Stock Exchange 100-share index fell 27.9 points, or 1.3 per cent, to close at 2,135.5.

Wall Street's Dow Jones industrial average was down 27.87 points, or one per cent, at 2,629.51 at the time London closed.

Monday, the London index fell more than 200 points and then recovered to finish with a 70.5 point decline.

Volume was an active 643.4 million shares at 5 p.m. (1600 GMT) Tuesday, compared to an extremely heavy 959.3 million shares Monday.

The German stock index (DAX), which had plunged 12.8 per cent in its worst one-day drop ever Monday, soared 89.72 points, or 6.4 per cent, to 1,475.44.

Frankfurt's trading volume even surpassed Monday's frenzied pace as small retail investors rushed to buy back some of the stocks they had dumped, and institutional funds took advan-

tage of the lower prices to boost their holdings.

But the early enthusiasm soon gave way to a more sober assessment and profit-taking late in the session, which had to be extended by one hour to process all the orders.

In Madrid, the Madrid stock market's general index rose 5.96 points, or two per cent, to a provisional closing figure of 311.18. The index fell 6.5 per cent Monday.

The Athens stock exchange general index rose 42.65 points, or 9.4 per cent at 497.79. It dropped 10.05 per cent Monday.

Earlier Tuesday, Tokyo staged a recovery, where the Nikkei index closed 527.39 points, or 1.3 per cent, higher at 34,996.08, regaining most of the ground it lost Monday.

The Dow Jones industrial average bounced back 88 points Monday after its 150-point plunge Friday the 13th.

Randall Goldsmith, an equities analyst at the London investment firm James Capel and Co., said: "In the short-term it will overhang the market."

"The markets overreacted to Friday's slump on the street but then thought yesterday's rally was the end of it all. Well it's not over yet," one London dealer said.

"Rally or not, investor confidence here is very fragile and it's going to take time before they commit themselves again," said another.

The August trade deficit was the worst trade imbalance since a \$10.80 billion deficit last December.

The widening gap resulted from a 0.2 per cent decline in exports to \$30.4 billion and a 6.4 per cent increase in imports to \$41.2 billion.

"This is of course an unwelcome increase and we're hopeful that it simply is a one-month situation and will turn around," said White House Press Secretary Martin Fitzwater.



Adel Qdiah (centre), director-general of Jordan's Customs Department addresses members of the Jordan Trade Association, headed by Mr. Samih Darwazah (right).

Jordan's customs chief pinpoints disadvantages

By Mariam M. Shahin
Jordan Times Staff Writer

AMMAN — Customs dues and regulations of any given customs department either encourage or discourage a country's exports.

Adel Al Qdiah, director-general of the Jordanian Customs Department told the chairman and members of the recently formed Jordan Trade Association Monday night.

During a one hour presentation which was followed by discussion, Qdiah pointed out that Jordanian industries had not taken full advantage of the customs services provided to them over the last twelve months.

He said that the customs exemptions of raw materials, semi-finished goods, machines and production equipment and other measures to protect locally produced goods had not been properly utilized by local producers.

After giving 120 companies special permission to import 19 million dinars worth of semi-finished goods, with the expressed intent to create a finished

products which would in turn be exported, only eight per cent or 1.5 million dinars worth of finished products were exported while 17.5 million JD's of the products remained on the Jordanian market, Qdiah said.

Such "lost opportunities" Qdiah said were detrimental to the Jordanian exporter, Qdiah told the audience, most of which belonged to the 25-member trade association.

He pointed out that the new customs centre in the industrial city of Sahab, east of Amman, catered exclusively to Jordanian industries and not to "middlemen." Industrialists in the audience said that they appreciated the move and hoped more such specialized centres would be set up in the near future.

Complaints

In response to complaints made by local industrialists, Qdiah said that intensive custom duty studies would continue because "in the last month alone we had 11 violations of exporting

rules." Qdiah was referring to items exported on the pretense of having been manufactured in Jordan while they had really been manufactured somewhere else.

He also pointed out that export permits now only require five official signatures when they required more than a dozen several years ago.

Responding to a complaint by a local exporter about the 13 official agencies which have to be contacted before a product is exported to other Arab countries such as Iraq, Qdiah pointed out that the Jordanian manufacturers had brought some bureaucratic regulations upon themselves by not regulating their produce for given standards, which include sizes and weights.

Qdiah, told the audience, which represented a cross-section of Jordan's industrial sector, that the Customs Department had been more than forthcoming, in an attempt to encourage exports and protect local products in the home market but that it was up to the industrialists themselves to meet the export potentials.

ECONOMIC NEWS BRIEFS

Kuwaiti fund gives Jordan soft loan

KUWAIT (Petra) — The Kuwait-based Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development has approved a 10.5 million Kuwaiti dinar soft loan to Jordan. A fund spokesman said the loan will be used to help Jordan carry out an electric grid linkage project with Egypt. He said that Egypt is to obtain a 34.1 million Kuwaiti dinar to help finance its part of the project on which work will start before the end of 1989. According to the spokesman, work on the project was expected to end by 1993 and the linkage will serve as a nucleus for linking the grids of Arab countries in North Africa and Asia. The Kuwaiti fund earlier provided a grant of 150,000 Kuwaiti dinars to finance a feasibility study of the project.

RJ leases Indonesia Tri Star

AMMAN (J.T.) — Royal Jordanian (RJ), the national airline, announced Tuesday that it will lease one of its Tri Star planes with its crew to the Indonesian airline for three months in 1990. An RJ spokesman said that agreement on leasing the plane was signed recently by the two sides, and that the Indonesian airline will employ the Jordanian aircraft on its Jakarta-Hong Kong route. The lease is in implementation of an initial deal concluded between the two sides in January 1989 during a visit to Jakarta by Civil Aviation Authority Director-General Mahmoud Balgez, Balgez who also visited the Philippines and Thailand for talks on air transport operations, had said that the Indonesian airline and RJ had also agreed to operate joint flights.

Italy eyes investments in Algeria

ALGIERS (R) — Italian Foreign Minister Gianni De Michelis foresees a jump in Italian investments in Algeria as a result of its liberal political and economic reforms. He told reporters after a one-day visit to Algeria that the two countries were discussing joint economic projects including the possible expansion of a gas pipeline between them. "We think there may be a qualitative jump in the near future in the process of political and economic reform in Algeria, especially in the direction of joint ventures and direct investment by the Italian private and public sectors," he said. Algeria is in the throes of transition from a one-party socialist state to a multi-party democracy, and it plans sweeping new incentives to attract foreign capital. De Michelis said the two sides had discussed a proposed expansion of an existing gas pipeline from Algeria to Italy via Tunisia. Italy is Algeria's biggest gas customer.

Gulf Air seeks \$400m loan

BAHRAIN (R) — Bahrain-based Gulf Air plans to borrow \$400 million to buy six new Boeing 767-300 aircraft. A spokesman for the airline told Reuters it had invited bids from the island's offshore banks for the loan, part of a plan to pay a total of a billion dollars for the Boeing and 12 Airbus A-320's. "We expect to complete this (plan) early next year," the spokesman said. The purchases would boost to 41 the number of airlines operated by Gulf Air, which is owned by the governments of Bahrain, Qatar, Oman and the emirate of Abu Dhabi. In April, Gulf Air signed a \$208 million loan with a syndicate of banks to buy four Boeing 767-300s. Gulf Air expected its 1989 profit to jump to around 50 million dinars (\$80 million) from 2.5 million (\$6.6 million) in 1988, the spokesman said. This would include funds from the sale in 1988 of eight ageing Boeing 737's. Gulf Air made losses in 1986 and 1987.

S. Arabia announces big gas find

DHAHRAN, Saudi Arabia (AP) — The Saudi Arabian Oil Co. has announced the discovery of a "substantial" new gas reservoir to the southeast of the capital, Riyadh. The company, also known as Saudi Aramco, said a wildcat well drilled 75 kilometres southeast of Riyadh encountered a new gas zone at a depth of around 7,900 feet (2,400 metres). "Subsequent coring of this zone confirmed the existence of a substantial gas reservoir," Saudi Aramco said. The well, Dham-1, tested sweet gas at a rate of 50 million cubic feet (1.4 million cubic metres) per day and yielded gas condensate with a gravity of 65 degrees API, Saudi Aramco said. The company plans further research to determine the thickness of the gas reservoir and estimate the reserves of the new field. Last June, Saudi Aramco announced the discovery of sweet crude oil in a wildcat drilled in the Al Hawtah region, around 190 kilometres south of Riyadh.

Poland devalues zloty by 14.7%

WARSAW (R) — Poland's new Solidarity-led government has devalued the zloty by 14.7 per cent against the dollar in line with plans to move an ailing, centrally planned economy closer to Western models. The national bank set the new rate at 2,100 zloties to the dollar, against 1,791 Friday, according to figures published by the government newspaper Rzeczpospolita. It was the 12th big devaluation this year. The previous one, and the biggest of the year, was on Sept. 28 when the value of the Polish currency was cut by 20 per cent in relation to the dollar. Finance ministry officials said previously they planned two big realignments in October and more before the end of the year to create a single exchange rate as soon as possible and restore confidence in the zloty. Polish citizens have to pay about 8,000 zloties for a dollar on the free market and the devaluation did not affect this rate. The official rate applies only to foreign tourists and foreign trade dealings.

AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

Tuesday, October 17, 1989

Central Bank official rates

	Buy	Sell	French franc	99.0	100.0
U.S. dollar	627.0	632.0	Japanese yen (for 100)	441.4	443.8
Pound Sterling	989.2	999.1	Dutch guilder	298.1	301.1
Deutschmark	336.5	339.9	Swedish crown	97.0	98.0
Swiss franc	353.9	357.7	Italian lira (for 100)	45.8	46.3
			Belgian franc (for 10)	160.2	161.8

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Tuesday.

One Sterling	1.5755/65	U.S. dollars	
One U.S. dollar	1.1740/50	Canadian dollar	
	1.8653/60	Deutschmarks	
	2.1053/60	Dutch guilders	
	1.6360/70	Swiss francs	
	39.15/19	Belgian francs	
	6.3375/425	French francs	
	1372/1373	Italian lire	
	142.45/55	Japanese yen	
	6.4725/75	Swedish crowns	
	6.9550/600	Norwegian crowns	
	7.2750/800	Danish crowns	
One ounce of gold	365.80/366.30	U.S. dollars	

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

By Reuters

SYDNEY — The share market retraced nearly half of Monday's slump and the All Ordinaries Index closed 61.7 points up at 1,662.6.

TOKYO — An early buying spree led by Japanese institutions pumped energy back into the market after Wall Street's overnight gains. The Nikkei index rebounded 527.39 points to close at 34,996.08.

HONG KONG — Blue chips held on to early gains after Wall Street's rebound but profit-taking capped the recovery. The Hang Seng index closed 94.20 up at 2,695.90.

SINGAPORE — Strong foreign and institutional buying and bargain-hunting helped the Straits Times Industrial Index recover 56.79 points to close at 1,341.83.

BOMBAY — Share prices tumbled on the Bombay stock exchange on heavy nervous selling triggered by reports Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi is calling elections ahead of schedule.

FRANKFURT — West German shares clawed back some of Monday's record losses. The Dax Index of 30 blue chips closed at 1,475.44 points, up 6.5 per cent.

PARIS — French share prices reversed earlier modest gains, but then steadied. The CAC-40 Index was 5.73 points or 0.31 per cent down at 1804.04 by 1315 GMT.

LONDON — Shares remained depressed in nervous volatile trade. By 1518 GMT the FTSE 100 was 29.3 points or 1.4 per cent down at 2134.1.

NEW YORK — Wall Street blue chips continued to decline following news that the U.S. trade gap in August widened considerably. The Dow was off 31.56 at 2625.41.

THE BETTER HALF. By Harris

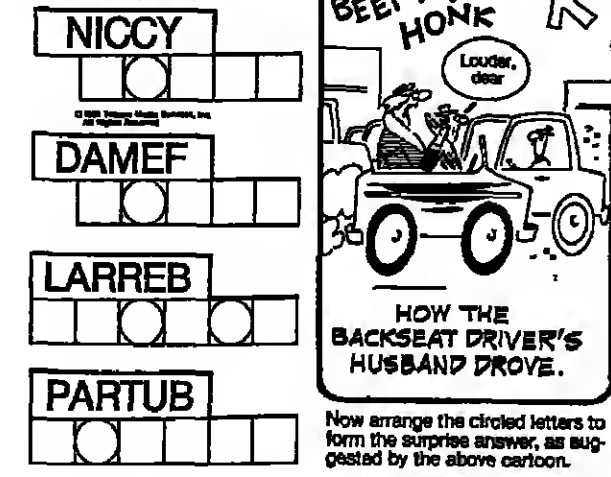


"Stanley comes home exhausted, but hates to miss his TV shows. So one eye watches TV while the other eye sleeps!"

JUMBLE THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.



Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here: (Answer tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumble: BROOK DADDY ADROIT MEASLY
Answer: That beloved movie villain was so good at being this—SO BAD

Peanuts

Mutt'n' Jeff

Andy Capp



Barcelona has something to prove

BRUSSELS (R) — Title-holders Barcelona are out to prove they have finally overcome their early-season slump when they meet Belgian League leaders Anderlecht in a European Cup Winners' Cup second round first leg match Wednesday.

Barcelona, although only seventh in the Spanish League, now trail leaders Real Madrid by just two points and can demonstrate against Anderlecht that they are ready to resume their place among Europe's leading soccer sides.

"It looks like the weak period of Barcelona is finally over," said Anderlecht's Dutch coach Aad de Mos, formerly of Ajax Amsterdam and Mechelen, who is predicting an exciting match.

"We'll see two teams not just aiming for a good result but also concerned about the way they play because they have to think about their prestige."

"The most important thing is to prevent Barcelona from scoring here. We have to keep that zero on the scoreboard as we've done in all our home matches this season," he said.

Barcelona started off the Spanish season in disastrous fashion and calls for Dutch coach Johan Cruyff to resign spread rapidly after the ambitious Catalan side lost their first three away

matches.

But the tide started to turn when Barcelona squeezed past Legia Warsaw in the Cup winners' cup first round last month.

They kept the momentum going to beat arch-rivals and Spanish champions Real Madrid 3-1 last week and geared themselves up for the Anderlecht tie with 90 minutes of shooting practice against Rayo Vallecano, who were lucky to get away with a 7-1 defeat.

The Catalan club's star Libero Ronald Koeman even became the Spanish League's joint top scorer with Real Madrid's Hugo Sanchez when he scored his side's seventh goal, although all six of his goals have come from the penalty spot.

Before leaving for Brussels Monday, Cruyff said his team would play attacking football and was confident they would score. But he added that Anderlecht were a tough proposition.

"Anderlecht are playing well at the moment and it won't be an easy run," he said.

The Belgians, winners of the trophy in 1976 and 1978, have experienced a considerably easier time than their Spanish opponents so far this season.

They disposed of Northern Irish amateurs Ballymena United with a 10-0 aggregate score

Agassi advances, Curren upset

TOKYO (AP) — Andre Agassi breezed past Australian Wally Masur 6-3, 6-4 Monday while fellow American Kevin Curren was upset by unseeded Eric Jelen of West Germany in the first round of the \$627,500 Seiko super tennis tournament.

The 19-year-old Agassi lost only two points on his own service in the first set as he belted powerful, accurate ground strokes from the baseline.

Masur rushed the net behind a powerful serve that gave him 12 aces, including four in the eighth game. Agassi had two aces in the match. Masur hit 73 per cent of his first serves against Agassi's 61 per cent.

But Agassi gained a key service break in the second set's fifth game, after recovering from 0-40 to keep service in the fourth game.

"It was pretty good today considering the fact that I had not played for six days. I hit the ball cleanly and took the advantages at the right time," said Agassi, ranked fifth in the world.

Jelen, ranked 48th in the world, lost the first set but rallied to beat Curren, no. 27, 4-6, 6-4, 6-4, on the artificial court of the Yoyogi National Stadium.

Third-seeded Jakob Hlasek of Switzerland also had to fight back

for a 6-7 (4-7), 6-3, 6-2 triumph over American Richey Reneberg. Fifth-seeded Carl-Uwe Steeb of West Germany beat American qualifier Patrick McEnroe, a younger brother of John, 6-4, 6-2.

Veteran Andres Gomez of Ecuador, the sixth seed, crushed Hidehiko Tanizawa, who in September became the youngest male winner over in the All-Japan tennis championship, 6-0, 6-2 in less than one hour.

"All his shots were much better than mine. I need more experience," the 17-year-old Tanizawa told reporters.

Dan Goldie, the no. 8 seed, beat fellow American Paul Chamberlain 6-4, 6-4 and Canadian Grant Connell downed American Scott Davis 6-3, 6-3.

Australian John Fitzgerald trounced Thomas Hogstedt of Sweden 6-3, 6-2.

Henri Leconte of France struggled to a first set tie-break but then easily wrapped up a 7-6 (7-2), 6-0 triumph over Japan's Toshinori Tsuchihashi.

Leif Shiras overwhelmed fellow American Tommy Ho 6-4, 6-2.

American Aaron Krickstein fought through two tie-breaks before downing Slobodan Zivjovic of Yugoslavia 6-3, 6-7 (8-10), 7-6 (7-4) in almost two hours.

Silivas still trying to win a major title

STUTTGART (AP) — Unless she wins the women's all-around title at this year's gymnastics world championships, Daniela Silivas may be remembered as the gymnast who lost by the closest margin in the history of the sport.

Ever since she burst onto the scene in 1985 as a 15-year-old, the Romanian has been one of the dominant competitors.

But one goal has always eluded her: the title of the best all-around gymnast at a major meet, such as the Olympics or the world championships.

Not that Silivas hasn't come close — very, very close.

At the 1988 Seoul Olympics, the Soviet star, Yelena Shushunova, edged Silivas by a mere 0.025 points for the gold medal. That was the closest margin in the history of the all-around event. The three golds Silivas later won in the apparatus finals did little to alleviate her disappointment.

At the European championships in Brussels in May, Silivas was beaten by another Soviet, Svetlana Boginskaya, this time by 0.013.

It was a classic battle. Going into the final exercise, on the floor, the two rivals were tied on points. Silivas was the first of the two to perform and ended up earning 9.987 for a daring display

of a difficult routine. It wasn't enough.

Boginskaya, cool under pressure, executed her exercise perfectly, getting the maximum 10 and clinching the title.

Throughout her career, Silivas has had to contend not only with the perennial rivals from the Soviet Union, but also with her own teammates.

At the 1987 world championships in Rotterdam, Netherlands, Silivas was the overwhelming favorite. But another Romanian, Aurelia Dobre, not even full 15 years of age, shocked the pundits by beating Silivas for the title.

Now, two years later, Silivas is 19, mature for a woman gymnast, and is probably competing in her last world championships.

Her start on Monday had something of a deja vu feeling for Silivas. The Romanian started by scoring a perfect 10 in her floor exercise and scored high on other apparatus — her lowest score was 9.912 on the uneven bars. But Silivas still ended only second in the compulsory portion of the women's team competition.

Boginskaya, an elegant 16-year-old, didn't score a 10 but had a steadier performance and no marks lower than 9.925 for a combined total of 39.837 to Silivas' 39.699.

Puerto Ricans soldier after training accident

STUTTGART (R) — The Puerto Rican women's team, competing after team mate Adriana Duffy was paralyzed in a training accident, ended their appearance at the world gymnastics championships with a respectable performance in the team optional exercises Tuesday.

"We never considered pulling out, Adriana wouldn't want that," said 16-year-old Beatriz Collazo after the team had amassed 351.453 points to lie in second place on the leaders' list behind Sweden — before the top teams had competed.

Duffy, the Puerto Ricans' most experienced gymnast, broke her neck Thursday when she slipped as she practised a vault and fell on her head.

Collazo's father Hector, president of the country's gymnastics federation, said 18-year-old Duffy had been moved to a Frankfurt hospital and was in a stable condition.

On a low-key day for the women gymnasts, Sweden made certain of moving up in the final reckoning from their 26th place in the compulsory section with the morning's top score of 360.268. Cheered on by their male team

mates, who noisily and repeatedly led a mini-version of the Mexican wave in the sparsely populated stands, the Swedes did best on the balance beam where Anna Werner earned 9.587 and Jessica Andresson collected 9.512.

Only the lowest-placed teams from the compulsory half of the event competed Tuesday. The others, including leaders the Soviet Union and defending champions Romania, will be in action Wednesday.

The first medals of the nine-day championships, in the men's team event, were being awarded later Tuesday with the Soviet Union looking virtually certain to retain the title they have won on four of the last five occasions.

Going into Tuesday evening's optional exercises, which make up the second half of the team competition, the Soviet six led East Germany by 293.15 points to 288.80 with China just behind in third place.

Olympic champion Vladimir Artemov headed the individual standings, which will be used to determine the 36 qualifiers for the all-around final Thursday, with all his team mates also among the leading 10.

Marseille promises progress

MARSEILLE, France (R) — Marseille's multi-million-dollar team of all the talents will try to put their recent poor league form behind them when they face Aek Athens in the second round of the European Cup Wednesday.

Club president Bernard Tapie, determined to provide an atmosphere to match his ambitions of bringing the trophy to France for the first time, has launched a major drive to attract more supporters.

He has dropped gate prices by 30 per cent and promised fans the chance to see Paris St. Germain vs Juventus and AC Milan vs Real Madrid on giant screens before and after the first-leg game in the hope of luring at least 35,000 to the Stade Velodrome.

Marseille, who are training in seclusion at Digne in the Alps, are expected to ring the changes after some disappointing league results. They have scored just twice in their last three games, all against struggling clubs.

Trainer Gerard Gili said the shock 1-1 home draw with Cannes Saturday was already forgotten. "The league has nothing to do with the European Cup," he said.

Midfielder Philippe Vercautse, a goalscorer in the first-round 3-0 victory over Brondby of Denmark, has been dropped from the squad.

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GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF
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HELP FROM A FRIEND

Neither vulnerable. South deals.

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HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 18, 1989

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Richter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: If you want to make full use of today and tonight's mixed aspects you will have to rely more on your instincts and hunches. Career goals are shaping up nicely at this time.

ARIES: (March 20 to April 17) A couple from a distance will have excellent advice for your future. You can make money through now taking a business risk.

TAURUS: (April 18 to May 19) Fixing up your home can be easily accomplished. You can join with your close attachment in a business association now.

GEMINI: (May 20 to June 20) Being critical at home could alienate you from members of your family. Be off with close friends to see interesting companions.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 21 to July 21) Don't invite an interesting group into your home at this time. You will be tempted to spend more money than is sensible.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Be off and about to interesting activities with your attachment. Resentment at home will cause you nothing but unhappiness.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 21) Restlessness at home requires that you and your family get out of the house. If you are going to do business now a large sum is best.

LIBRA: (September 22 to October 22) Do nothing now that would cause business persons to think you are cheap. Seeing too much of one friend can cause you unnecessary problems.

"The stars impel, they do not compel." What you make of your life is largely up to you.

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The British Council

We are pleased to announce that the following people have passed the University of Cambridge First Certificate in English:

Yvonne Perrin
Maria Teresa Mendi
Joanna Dabrowska
Magda Bentaleb
Hani Bakht
Iman Damen
Mohammad Younes

The British Council runs a series of 4 courses leading up to this examination which is held every June and December.

First Soviet golf course is bang on course

MOSCOW (AP) — Dennis Zjerebko pulled out an 8-iron and whacked the ball 135 yards into the wind straight down the makeshift fairway.

"Not bad," said his mentor, Sven Tumba. "You're learning fast."

Zjerebko is 15 years old and has been playing golf for less than a year. He's not an American, or a Briton, a South African or an Australian.

He's from the Soviet Union, and great things are expected of him. Within a year, Zjerebko will be practicing on a proper course, with proper fairways, proper greens and flags and top-class American and Japanese-made clubs.

"I can't wait," said Zjerebko, the first Soviet player to have a handicap, 19. "Golf is a wonderful sport. It's played in open, natural surroundings and you breathe in the air. I play hockey and table tennis and I swim. But I fell in love with golf the first time I picked up a club."

Zjerebko is one of a group of youngsters being groomed to become the first generation of

Soviets to play one of the most capitalist Western sports.

Less than a year from now, the Soviet Union's first golf course, a nine-hole layout by the Swedish embassy in the heart of downtown Moscow, will be opened to the public.

It will end a 20-year dream for Tumba, the former Swedish ice hockey and soccer international star.

"I have tried every year to get permission to build a course here," Tumba said. "They told me it was a capitalist sport, but two years ago they finally said Ok. I'm convinced it's going to be a success."

Already, Tumba's golf school, where Zjerebko learns his swing, is up and running with 80 youths. By next winter, Tumba said, it will have 250.

"There is no reason at all why the Soviet Union can't produce great golfers," Tumba said in an interview. "They are so sports-minded. Ten years ago, people said it would never take off in Sweden. Now it's the fastest growing sport and clubs are fully subscribed."

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East Berlin sentences rioters as thousands march for reform

EAST BERLIN (Agencies) — East Germany announced jail terms for three rioters Tuesday amid a wave of demands for change in the hardline communist state.

A leading newspaper broke news of the prison sentences in Dresden shortly after demonstrations for reform in that city and in Leipzig, where 100,000 marched through the streets in one of East Germany's biggest protests.

Western diplomats and Protestant church sources said the upsurge in protests, less than a week after the leadership agreed to consider limited reforms, indicated people were not satisfied with what was being offered.

The daily Junge Welt said three men from Dresden, arrested in riots two weeks ago during East Germany's 40th anniversary celebrations, were jailed last Friday for up to four-and-a-half years for hooliganism, unlawful assembly and resisting police.

Hours before the widely-read youth newspaper was published, a big crowd marched peacefully through Leipzig Monday chanting "we are the people" and "give young people power."

At least 100,000 people thronged the streets of the major industrial and trade centre in one

of the biggest protests since a failed workers' revolt in 1953, according to diplomats and other witnesses.

"The tail of the procession had barely left the opera square and already the head was coming back towards the square around the ring road," said a diplomat who was in Leipzig.

In Dresden, a smaller city on the River Elbe, more than 10,000 people besieged the town hall Monday evening to demand news on talks between Mayor Wolfgang Berghofer, a group of 26 protesters and church representatives.

Chanting "here and now" and "we have waited 40 years already," the crowd refused to disperse until Berghofer appeared at a window with a megaphone to say the talks would continue.

The Protestant church sources in Dresden told Reuters by telephone that the protesters would brief citizens in churches Tuesday night on progress in the talks, begun by Berghofer last week to

defuse tension. But church leaders fear people's patience is running out because there is little sign of change despite the officially-sanctioned talks in Dresden and other towns.

The Communist Party's ruling Politburo said last Wednesday it was ready to start a dialogue on ways of making the orthodox system more attractive. But it ruled out talks with the opposition movement headed by the 26,000-strong New Forum group.

Diplomats said the 21-man Politburo was expected to meet Tuesday but would not necessarily make its deliberations public, despite growing openness in the official media.

The party's policy-making Central Committee is expected to draw up proposals for change within the next month, but the date of its meeting is not yet known.

"People are not ready to wait much longer," said a church official, who said demonstrators could take to the streets in force again to vent their frustration.

The diplomats said the atmosphere on the Leipzig march was orderly but impatient. Police and workers' militia kept a low profile and did not intervene except to direct traffic.

"It was kind of scary," said one envoy. "It would only have needed one brick through a window to set the whole thing off."

Erich Honecker, the country's 77-year-old leader, has steadfastly resisted pro-democracy reforms. But Honecker reportedly is under increasing pressure to step down, as the country reels from the massive protests and the exodus of tens of thousands of citizens to the West.

Vyacheslav Dushichev, a foreign affairs adviser to Soviet President Mikhail S. Gorbachev, told West Germany's ZDF television network when asked about the developments in East Germany that "socialist states need to renew their old political and economic systems."

"The old Stalinist models of socialism are sentenced to die out, and no one can keep them alive."

Gorbachev, during a visit to East Berlin for the nation's 40th anniversary celebrations Oct. 7, urged Honecker to implement reforms akin to those under way in the Soviet Union, Poland and Hungary.

For several days, there have been reports and growing speculation that Honecker's 18-year rule as head of the Communist Party may be coming to an end.

CIA wants looser rules on killings during coups

NEW YORK (Agencies) — Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) Director William Webster was quoted Tuesday as urging the easing of curbs on U.S. involvement in coups that could result in the death of a country's leader.

In an interview with the New York Times, Webster referred specifically to the Oct. 6 attempt against Panamanian leader General Manuel Antonio Noriega.

He suggested that a longstanding presidential executive order barring U.S. involvement in assassinations had severely limited the CIA's ability to deal with the coup plotters.

The executive order was adopted in 1976 by former President Gerald Ford after a congressional probe detailed the CIA's role in assassination plots against Cuban President Fidel Castro and other foreign leaders.

"The United States does not engage in selective, individual assassination," Webster was quoted as saying.

"But the United States has other important overriding concerns about security and protecting democracy in areas of the world

where it has a legitimate claim of interest," he said. "And when despots take over, there has to be a means to deal with the short of making us (out) to be hired killers."

The CIA director said the order bars the United States from devising a plan to assassinate Noriega.

"Now the next thing is, hire a guy to kill Noriega or hire a group who wants to kill Noriega," he said. "Our executive order would have in the past been construed at least that we could not be using someone else to do what we couldn't do ourselves."

"Now it begins to get a little tighter when you say, 'here's a group that says it doesn't plan to kill him, but they're going to have to play rough and it could happen,' now we're in the area that has to be addressed."

Asked if the order had played a key role in the failure of the Panamanian coup, Webster said he was uncertain.

But he said the order "could very well make a difference in the next one because the likelihood of the next plotter planning that he may probably have to take

Noriega out is real."

Webster said he thought Noriega's days were numbered, but he declined to predict how long the Panamanian strongman might remain in power "because we haven't been very good at that."

Bush 'satisfied'

President George Bush is "fully satisfied" with Webster and the intelligence agency's performance during the attempted coup in Panama, White House National Security Adviser Brent Scowcroft said Monday.

"Rumours of White House displeasure are totally false," Scowcroft said in a written statement responding to a published report. Separately, White House Press Secretary Marlin Fitzwater said Bush "has complete confidence in Director Webster and the leadership he's providing at CIA."

The Washington Post, in Monday's edition, reported that unidentified "senior officials" in the Bush administration were frustrated with Webster's low-profile performance and had begun talk of replacing him with a more active player.

The Post quoted White House Chief of Staff John Sununu as



William Webster

saying during a recent staff meeting that he had learned more about the attempted coup from watching television's Cable News Network than from Webster's CIA. However, Fitzwater said the newspaper was in error on that point.

Fitzwater said Sununu's comment was made at the time of the crackdown on pro-democracy forces in China — not the coup attempt in Panama — and that it "did not refer to Director Webster."

Fitzwater said he talked with Bush extensively about the Post story and the president "thinks the newspaper report was outrageous."

Modern morality vs. British royalty

By Ben Dobbin
The Associated Press

LONDON — Marina Ogilvy is two months pregnant and refuses to marry the father until after the child is born. She says her parents are demanding they marry now or have an abortion.

This sad and commonplace tale of modern morality qualifies as a royal scandal, albeit a marginal one, because Miss Ogilvy is 24th in line to the throne, her mother being Queen Elizabeth II's first cousin.

The royal family has recently suffered the breakup of the marriage of Princess Anne, the queen's daughter. Now, say royal watchers, 23-year-old Miss Ogilvy has broken palace taboos by going public in lurid detail about her estrangement from her parents, Sir Angus Ogilvy and Princess Alexandra.

The affair took on bigger dimensions Monday when Miss Ogilvy, clutching the hand of boyfriend Paul Mowatt, broadcast a tearful plea to her mother over BBC-TV.

"I want you to really stand by me and love me as a mother," she said in the taped interview with host Robert Kilroy-Silk.

Miss Ogilvy said: "We believe we are doing the right thing and it's what we want to do."

"I don't agree that Marina should be pushed up the aisle into, as such, a shotgun wedding," Mowatt said. They said the baby is due in May and they plan to marry sometime afterwards.

Miss Ogilvy first went public in an interview published Oct. 9 in Today, a London tabloid, in which she claimed her parents had tried to trick her into an abortion, disowned her and cut

off her £100,000 (\$160,000) trust fund and £280 (\$450) monthly allowance.

Her parents, in brief statements from their official St. James's Palace residence, denied being "cut off" from their daughter.

"Marina's parents sadly do not know where she is but Marina has their (telephone) numbers and they would love her to get in touch with them," said a statement issued Sunday night.

Kilroy-Silk duly obliged by asking one of his talkshow guests, a royal-watching journalist who knows Miss Ogilvy, to give her parents the phone number.

The parents are making an official tour to India and Nepal later this week and "at the moment the tour has to proceed," said their spokeswoman, who requested anonymity.

Buckingham Palace, the queen's residence, declined to comment.

Princess Alexandra, 52, receives £145,000 (\$230,000) annually from the money the state gives the queen, and it pays mainly for official duties. Ogilvy, a commoner businessman, refused a royal title when he married Alexandra in 1963.

Mowatt, a 26-year-old freelance photographer, says he did not know Miss Ogilvy had royal connections until after their affair began. Miss Ogilvy says that when she and Mowatt visited her parents at their Richmond Park Mansion in west London Sept. 29, they issued an ultimatum "that you both get married before you have the child or you have an abortion. If you don't do that we don't really want anything to do with you."

"I expected them to say ...



Marina Ogilvy, 23-year-old cousin of Queen Elizabeth II and 24th in line to the British throne.

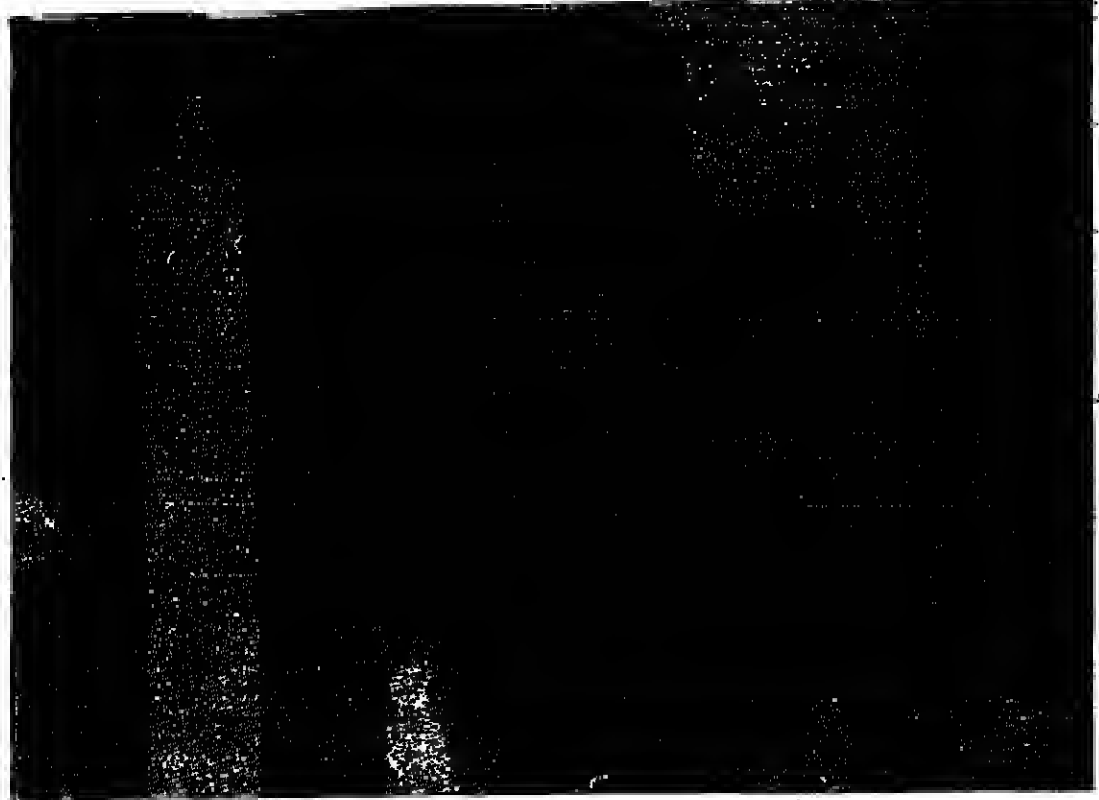
whatever decision you come to. I want you to know we will stand by you," she said.

Andrew Morton, author of seven books on royalty, was quoted in the Sunday Times as saying Miss Ogilvy had committed "an act of betrayal. ... no member of the royal family has ever done anything as bitter as this."

Harold Brooks-Baker, publishing director of the British Royals' Bible, Burke's Peerage, said he was dismayed by

Miss Ogilvy's public antics. "The strength of the royal family is that they've always closed ranks and stuck together," he said. "Disagreements always happened behind palace walls."

He described Princess Alexandra as "probably the most compassionate person the royal family ever produced. ... no child should act that way even towards parents who are less perfect than these (the Ogilvys) are."



A young East German fights candles for political prisoners outside the Gethsemane Protestant church in East Berlin.

Yeltsin denies story of being dumped in river

MOSCOW (R) — Reformist politician Boris Yeltsin said Tuesday the Soviet leadership was trying to discredit him with an accusation that he fabricated a claim of an assassination attempt.

Interior Minister Vadim Bakatin told an incredulous Supreme Soviet, the inner parliament, Monday that a soaking-wet Yeltsin had gone to the authorities one night last month saying someone had thrown him into the Moscow River.

"This is not a question for a meeting of the Supreme Soviet," Yeltsin said during a break in Tuesday's session of parliament.

"It is the wish of the leadership to discredit a deputy, to diminish his authority and to distract the voters from more painful subjects."

The plain-spoken former Moscow party chief, plagued by allegations that he drank his way through a U.S. lecture tour, repeated his denials that he had been assaulted.

"I can only repeat what I said,

that there were no attacks on me," he said, adding that on the night in question he had attended a meeting with voters in a Moscow district.

The populist politician went on to reject a series of reports about him.

"The rumours that I had a heart attack, an auto accident or was about to die were just rumours," he said.

"As Mark Twain said, the rumours of my death are greatly exaggerated."

The incident is the worst scandal to hit the revamped Soviet parliament and seemed certain to raise questions about the conduct of the Moscow deputy, who enjoys huge popular appeal.

Past accusations against Yeltsin of drunken behaviour and a Communist Party investigation into election statements he made earlier this year appeared to boost rather than diminish his popularity.

Bakatin said Yeltsin had appeared at a police station on the night of Sept. 28 and said

someone had tried to kill him.

"Unknown persons dragged him into a car and put a sack over his head. He was dragged out of the car and thrown off a bridge in the Moscow River," Bakatin said Yeltsin told police.

"Having swum 300 metres down river, he climbed out, had a rest and went to the police."

Later Yeltsin asked police not to report the incident. He denied there had been an assassination attempt and asked police to close the case, Bakatin said.

The minister said there was no evidence to support Yeltsin's story.

Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev quoted Yeltsin as having told the leadership that he had played a bad joke but he hinted the story could have political ramifications.

While Yeltsin was on a tour of the United States last month, the Communist Party daily Pravda reprinted an article by the Italian newspaper La Repubblica saying he had been drinking heavily.

KGB returns Wallenberg papers, voices remorse over his death

MOSCOW (AP) — Nearly 45 years after Swedish diplomat Raoul Wallenberg was arrested by Soviet security forces in wartime Budapest and vanished, a deputy chief of the KGB has apologised for the arrest and handed the missing man's personal effects to his stunned relatives.

"It was terribly emotional to see his handwriting and his photograph and his identity papers," said Nina Lagergren of receiving the passport, driver's licence, address book, calendar and cash that her long-lost brother was carrying when he was arrested in January 1945.

Soviet officials for the first time expressed remorse over the Stalin-era arrest of Wallenberg, who saved tens of thousands of people from the Nazi gas chambers, Lagergren said.

"The detention of Wallenberg was a tragic mistake," Foreign Ministry spokesman Gennady Gerasimov told a separate press briefing.

However, the Soviets clung to their decades-old assertion that Wallenberg died of heart failure in Moscow's Lubyanka prison in 1947.

That claim is forcefully rejected by the Swedes, due to

numerous sightings of Wallenberg in Vladimir prison during the 1950s and more erratic reports since then.

"We are confident that he was been able to survive," Lagergren said. She believes Wallenberg is still being held in isolation at the age of 77, with his identity long covered up.

Per Anger, who was a colleague of Wallenberg in Hungary in the violent waning days of the war and now heads the Raoul Wallenberg Association in Stockholm, said current authorities may be genuinely ignorant of Wallenberg's fate.

"We think it's difficult to find people in the Gulag," he said, using the term for the Soviet network of prison camps. The delegation gave the Soviets a list of sightings and expects to meet twice more this week, Anger said.

In a strange twist, Anger added to the mystery around Wallenberg by refusing to tell reporters when and where the diplomat was last reported seen.

"We hope in the not too distant future we can tell you more," Anger said. "We are in a dialogue with Soviet authorities and we can't tell you."

The only proof offered by Pirozhkov and Deputy Foreign Minister Valentin Nikiforov to the small delegation of relatives and supporters was the same doctor's letter reporting the death that they revealed in 1957.

Pirozhkov told the group Wallenberg's personal effects were found right in KGB headquarters in the Lubyanka last month, said Guy von Dardel, Wallenberg's half-brother.

"He said there were sacks and sacks of documents," von Dardel said. "It seemed they had to do a lot of work to find them."

Wallenberg's blue diplomatic passport, stamped with the three crowns of Sweden, shows a square-jawed, balding 32-year-old in the prime of his life. It carries all the necessary stamps of Sweden, Hungary and Nazi Germany to show the graduate of the University of Michigan had full diplomatic immunity at the time of his arrest.

Anger said the passport proves that Soviet secret police deliberately violated international law in charging Wallenberg. Association, said she personally does not cling to any hope that the diplomat is still alive.

Renegade politician returns to Bhutto camp with unity vow

ISLAMABAD (Agencies) — Leading Pakistani opposition politician Ghulam Mustafa Khar made peace with Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto Monday, three years after he left her party to help form a rival grouping.

"Even on a charitable assessment, the combined opposition is not capable of forming a stable administration," Khar told a news conference. "Sometimes it seems that is combined only by hatred for the Bhutto name."

Khar said he had chosen to align himself with Bhutto's Pakistan People's Party (PPP) and would formally merge his faction of the small National People's Party (NPP) with the PPP at a convention to be held later.

The former governor and chief minister of Pakistan's most populous province, Punjab, said he would work to reconcile the PPP and its opponents, to strengthen the country's democracy revived last year after 11 years of military rule.

Local political commentators say Bhutto, who comes from the

southern province of Sind, wants to use Khar's influence in Punjab to subdue his main rival, the pro-sect Punjab Chief Minister Nawaz Sharif of the Islamic Democratic Alliance.

Khar left the PPP in 1986 on his return from nine years of European exile because of differences with Bhutto. He joined other party dissidents to launch the NPP and in 1988 formed his own faction within the party.

He first joined PPP in 1968 when it was founded by Miss Bhutto's father, Zulfikar Ali Bhutto.

The elder Bhutto counted Khar among his closest associates until he broke ranks in the mid-1970s. His departure came shortly before the elder Bhutto was toppled in a bloodless coup in 1977.

Two years later Ms. Bhutto's father was hanged for allegedly plotting to kill a political foe.

Khar told the news conference his defection will be a catalyst that will bring other provincial and federal opposition members over to the Bhutto camp. His claims could not be substantiated,

but political analysts said the extent of Khar's influence will be put to the test over the next several weeks.

The Punjab province, where 60 per cent of Pakistan's 107 million people live, is now governed by an alliance of eight parties ranging from right-wing to religious fundamentalist to centrist.

Since taking power last Dec. 2, Ms. Bhutto has been at loggerheads with the ruling alliance in Punjab.

Her critics charge the political rancor has paralysed her government and stalled several government development projects.

"Democracy is at present subjected to a severe test in our country," said Khar, referring to the ongoing confrontation between Bhutto's government and provincial opponents.

"My foremost effort will be to bring about national reconciliation, but if there is a need to confront some elements in the larger interest of the country, I will not hesitate to do so," said Khar.

COLUMN

Faulty lottery tickets in Norway

OSLO, Norway (AP) — Winners shrieked with joy while a charity organisation howled in despair this weekend because its fund-raising lottery turned far too many Norwegians into millionaires. A shipment of lottery tickets for the Norwegian Association for the Blind was to contain five winners of one million kroner (143,000) each. But as many as 50 people may claim the top prize, reported Arne Husveg, the association's general manager, blamed a printing error and hoped the printer will cover the unplanned prizes. The total number of winners is still not known. In the cities of Bergen and Trondheim, traditionally reserved Norwegians stormed outlets in hopes of buying a winning ticket, reported Dagbladet. In Bergen, a 22-year-old won repeatedly for a total of 3.3 million kroner (\$471,000). "People were buying hundreds and hundreds of kroner worth of tickets. I asked them if they won and they just laughed at me," Hildur Loraas, 60, told the newspaper Verdens Gang (VG). "I feel sorry for the association," said Loraas, who also won a million. She works at a Trondheim airport newsstand, which sold at least 11 winning tickets, said the report. "We feel a responsibility to the winners," Husveg said. There was no fraud, and all winners will get a prize, he said.

Britain returns to funky madness

LONDON (AP) — British designers abandoned power dressing in their first collections for the 1990s, some returning to the wacky madness that made London fashions famous and others launching the decade in a relaxed, flowing style. After putting women in status-conscious, super-structured clothes with big padded shoulders for several years, British designers have followed Milan in loosening up their styles for next summer. But there's no uniform look and individuality remains the key fashion word in the British collections, being shown here through Tuesday. "I would say it's anything flows in the 1990s and super-structure is out," said Bernie Ozer, vice-president of AMC Corporation, a New York buying company. The big names in British fashion — Rifat Ozbek, Arabella Pollen, Bruce Oldfield, Edina Ronay and Bellville Sassoon — turned out some beautiful clothes. But the big news was in the youth market, where there was a revival of kooky, fun and sometimes off-the-wall clothes. "The streets look here has always been good," Ozer said. "Sometimes it's fashionable to like it. Sometimes it's unfashionable to like it. It's now in fashion."

Snakes — the new guard dogs?

LIMERICK, Ireland (R) — Snakes, banished from Ireland by Saint Patrick almost 1,000 years ago, are making a comeback on the Emerald Isle — as guard dogs. "We have sold at least 10 in the past six weeks alone," said Limerick petshop owner Gay Mullally, who offers a whole range of mobile burglar alarms from American ribbon snakes to pythons. Residents of this western city apparently consider a hissing serpent more effective than a growling guard dog. Given a supply of mice every two weeks, they are also less expensive to feed than German shepherds or rottweilers. But the petshop's burglar alarm campaign has suffered some bad blows — two of the guard snakes escaped from their new homes and three have been stolen.

Global weather

(major world cities)

	TEMP.	WIND.	SEA.
AMSTERDAM	10 F	10 mph	Clear
ATHENS	12 F	10 mph	Cloudy
BAHRAIN	24 F	32 mph	Clear
BANGKOK	25 F	72 mph	Clear
BANGKOK APRES	10 F	50 mph	Rain
BEIRUT	15 F	28 mph	Clear
CHICAGO	18 F	28 mph	Cloudy
COPENHAGEN	13 F	35 mph	Cloudy
FRANKFURT	01 F	34 mph	Clear
GENEVA	01 F	34 mph	Clear
HONG KONG	22 F	23 mph	Cloudy
ISTANBUL	05 F	42 mph	Clear
LONDON	11 F	28 mph	Clear
LOS ANGELES	15 F	22 mph	Clear
MADRID	12 F	54 mph	Rain
MECCA	26 F	41 mph	Clear
MONTREAL	08 F	24 mph	Cloudy
MOSCOW	22 F	20 mph	Clear
NEW DELHI	17 F	22 mph	Clear
NEW YORK	14 F	21 mph	Rain
PARIS	08 F	19 mph	Cloudy
ROME	40 F	22 mph	Clear
STOCKHOLM	16 F	21 mph	Cloudy
TOKYO	08 F	17 mph	Clear